FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Tripoli Evacuation — The evacuation of Palestinian fighters loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli, which was to begin with the arrival of five Greek ships on 19 December, was postponed because of the Israeli Navy's continued bombardment of Palestinian positions in the area, Beirut radio announced. Meanwhile, all five Greek ships remained off Cyprus pending a decision by the French admiral onboard the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*, who is to command the escorting French ships, on the timing of the departure, Nicosia radio stated. Beirut radio also reported that 200 men of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces were due in Tripoli on 18 December to escort 'Arafat's fighters to the ships, leaving Syrian forces responsible for security on the land.

Evacuation of Wounded — The first Palestinians to leave Tripoli, 190 wounded fighters, departed aboard an Italian hospital ship on 17 December, Beirut radio announced. The hospital ship offloaded its Palestinian passengers in Cyprus, from which 73 departed for Egypt and 19 for Yugoslavia, Nicosia radio disclosed, adding that 2 remained in Cyprus for medical treatment. MENA and TANJUG later confirmed the arrival by air of the wounded Palestinians who had been bound for Egypt and the SFRY.

Commenting on the withdrawal, PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman stated that the Greek ships will transport 1,000 fighters to Algeria, dropping 'Arafat and the members of his leadership off in Tunis en route and depositing the remaining approximately 3,000 in the YAR. In remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo, 'Abd ar-Rahman revealed that the pro-'Arafat forces will not leave their heavy weapons in Tripoli or hand them over to the Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement but reaffirmed that the weapons will not be transported aboard the Greek ships carrying the fighters. Meanwhile, 'Arafat told a press conference in Tripoli on 19 December that all heavy weapons would be left for the Lebanese Army, Beirut radio reported.

Israeli Shelling, Position — Israeli gunboats continued to shell Palestinian "targets" in Tripoli on 18 and 19 December, Jerusalem radio stated citing military spokesmen who reported "accurate hits." Beirut radio stated that two ships anchored in the port were hit on the 19th, one of which was sunk, while on 18 December the radio announced that the Israeli shells had hit a Greek ship, the first to arrive in preparation for the evacuation of 'Arafat and his men. Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio claimed that Israeli warplanes strafed Tripoli port on 18 December.

'Abd ar-Rahman stated that the bombardment "will not affect" the Palestinians' plans to leave Tripoli "as agreed upon." He also invited UN Security Council condemnation of the Israeli action and appealed to France and Greece to adopt "more decisive measures" to ensure the Palestinians' safety.

The Israeli shelling of Tripoli has "nothing to do" with the plans to evacuate 'Arafat's forces, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated during an interview with Vienna television. Responding to a question on the purpose of the Israeli blockade of the port city, Shamir affirmed that Israel "has not undertaken anything against the evacuation." Likewise, security sources cited by Jerusalem television asserted that Israel "will not stand in the way of the Greek ships." Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated during an interview with Jerusalem radio that the countries ready to assist in the evacuation should make their aid conditional on 'Arafat and his men laying down their arms and declaring that they will "no longer use the weapon of terror." Arens observed that "there is no doubt" that Israel is capable of preventing 'Arafat's departure.

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Israeli Air Force attacked "terrorist" bases in the Bhamdun area early on 19 December, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. The Israeli pilots scored accurate hits and all planes returned safely to base, he added. A Syrian military spokesman cited by Damascus radio said the Israeli aircraft strafed a position and a hospital in Bhamdun but claimed that Syrian air defenses "intercepted" the raiders and forced them away. In an earlier statement carried by the radio, a Syrian military spokesman announced that U.S. warships shelled Syrian positions in Al-Matn on 18 December immediately after Syrian air defenses "confronted" two F-14's overflying the area and forced them to fly out to sea. Citing "reliable sources," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said 27 Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) gunmen were killed and 70 were wounded by U.S. shelling on 15 December.

The security situation was relatively calm in and around Beirut following the "comprehensive" new cease-fire agreement reached by the Security Arrangements Committee on 16 December, according to Beirut radio. However, the radio reported that Lebanese Army positions in several areas came under sniper fire on 18 December and Radio Free Lebanon said PSP forces resumed shelling the Army the following morning.

Two IDF soldiers were wounded and a local resident was killed on 18 December by a hand grenade attack in Sidon, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by IDF Radio. Correspondents cited by AFP said three Israelis were killed and three others wounded in the attack. The Israeli convoy opened fire, killing a Lebanese civilian and wounding three others.

Political Developments — The Syrian, Saudi, and Lebanese foreign ministers held detailed discussions on the Lebanese situation in order to create a suitable climate to make the forthcoming National Dialogue Conference a success, Syrian

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam declared in a statement reported by Damascus television after two rounds of talks among the three ministers in Damascus. The three will meet again in Saudi Arabia early in January, he added, and will set a date for the National Dialogue Conference at the conclusion of their "current discussions."

Earlier, President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Lebanon after unexpected talks in Libya with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan subsequently stated in remarks broadcast by the radio that Al-Jumayyil's talks with Al-Qadhdhafi were "useful" and an important step toward "normalizing matters," even though the reasons for the freeze in Lebanese-Libyan relations "still exist." The withdrawal of Libyan forces from Lebanon will be included in future dialogue between the two countries, he said. Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that the participants stressed their desire for cooperation and consultation and the need for "decisive solutions" at the local level in Lebanon.

Dayr al-Qamar, Airport — The evacuation of Christian refugees from Dayr al-Qamar continued over the weekend despite harassment from Druze militiamen, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, in accordance with the new cease-fire, Beirut International Airport reopened on 16 December, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Syrian Warnings — Syria "will be forced to reply" to U.S. fire and those who shoot down U.S. aircraft can "certainly" hit the *New Jersey*, Syria's *TISHRIN* declared in a commentary reviewed by Damascus radio. An earlier *TISHRIN* commentary reported by the radio warned that Syria has the means to remove "any U.S. naval unit from the battle" and predicted that the United States will be "surprised that Syria will perform miracles in defending itself."

Tripoli Reconciliation Plan — Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami's Northern Coordination Committee completed its plan for a reconciliation among the Lebanese factions in Tripoli, Karami announced in a statement reported by Beirut radio. The plan, which calls for complete freedom of political action and a joint committee to control all weapons, was endorsed during a meeting in Damascus, the radio added. For the first time, the meeting was attended by representatives of the pro-'Arafat Islamic Unification Movement in addition to those of the Communist Party and the Arab Democratic Party, according to the radio.

Kuwait Bombings

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn announced that 10 people have been arrested and have admitted to planning and carrying out the 12 December bombings in Kuwait. In a statement to KUNA, Husayn said that 12 members of the Islamic Call party were involved, including 7 Iraqis, 1 of whom drove the truck that crashed into the U.S. Embassy, and 3 Lebanese.

Tehran radio reported that during their investigations the Kuwaiti police "attacked" the head office supervising Iranian schools in Kuwait and arrested the office's director and three others. The Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where he was handed an official protest. The radio subsequently reported that the Kuwaiti police also attacked several schools, beat up several Iranian and Pakistani clergymen, and arrested two Iranian clergymen.

Libya

Characterizing President Reagan's call for other nations, particularly those in West Europe, to join the ban on the export of equipment to Libya as a "new terror campaign," a Tripoli radio commentary urged West Europeans to "think 1,000 times before adopting" this measure, because it would have repercussions in economic cooperation not only with Libya "but also with the whole Arab homeland."

Israel-Egypt

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a car parked in front of the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria on 15 December, but no one was injured and the culprit was arrested, Jerusalem radio reported, citing the Israeli consul in Alexandria. The radio also noted complaints by Egyptian diplomats in Tel Aviv that they and their cars had been victims of harassment, while *THE JERUSALEM POST* cited Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources as saying that Israel had promised to increase security precautions at the Egyptian Embassy in response to the complaints. According to the Egyptian weekly *OCTOBER*, also cited by AFP, a senior adviser to the Egyptian foreign minister refused an invitation to visit Israel, stating that he could not accept "under existing circumstances."

Iraq

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) kidnapped another three foreign workers in Iraq — an Italian, an Egyptian, and a Thai — just a few days after kidnapping three French nationals on 2 December, KDP Politburo member Idriss Barzani told AFP. Barzani revealed that his organization's demands for the release of the French workers had been softened to "details" on the 8,000 Iraqi Kurds reportedly expelled from their homes in August. The KDP had earlier demanded that the 8,000 be returned and that 57 Kurds sentenced to death be freed in order to secure the French nationals' release.

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Reportage on Palestinian Tripoli Evacuation

Syrian, Israeli Gunboats Attack

JN161722 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The Syrian and Libyan forces that are besieging Tripoli are continuing to violate the cease-fire by directing artillery and rocket shelling at several of our positions inside the steadfast city and several of its suburbs. The intermittent shelling yesterday evening was concentrated against Az-Zahiriyah, where the Palestinian command is stationed.

Meanwhile, the Israeli siege of Tripoli from the sea is continuing. Several Israeli gunboats intermittently bombarded several of the city's suburbs, particularly the Az-Zahiriyah area. Our forces violently and fiercely replied to the Zionist bombardment, forcing the enemy gunboats to retreat. Our forces did not reply to the Syrian shelling.

Israeli 16 Dec Attack

GF161916 San'a' Voice of Palestine Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpt] News reports from Tripoli this morning supplied information on the clashes between the positions of the Palestinian revolution forces and the Zionist gunboats which lasted a few hours and did not result in any casualties in the ranks of the resistance forces.

The news reports said that the clashes began before midnight, when the Zionist gunboats, for the fourth time this week, began to shell the Palestinian positions, after they approached the Tripoli coast with their lights off, concentrating their bombardment on Al-Mina' area, (Al-Bahsah), and the Qarantine.

A Palestinian source announced this morning that the Palestinian revolutionaries used (?flares) and rocket launchers in responding to the Zionist enemy's gunboats and forced them to withdraw toward the sea at dawn.

PLO Military Statement

JN171730 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Dec 83

["Military statement" issued by the Palestinian revolution general command on 16 December]

[Text] Israeli warships and vessels shelled the city of Tripoli — particularly the areas of Al-Mina', the Quarantine, and Al-Bihsas — three different times today. Our forces used all types of weapons to engage the hostile vessels and repulse these Israeli attacks, forcing them to retreat to the open sea. The shelling continued until late tonight. Revolution until victory!

Wounded Evacuated 19 Dec

NC170845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli began today with the evacuation of the wounded first, while the fighters will be evacuated on 19 December.

At 0700 today, an Italian hospital ship arrived at Tripoli harbor to remove 190 Palestinian wounded, and since 0900, the International Red Cross has been ferrying the wounded from Tripoli hospitals to the ship docked in the harbor.

Mr Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, the spokesman for the 'Arafat loyalists, has clarified that this process will last no less than 4 hours because of the serious health condition of the wounded and because of the need to care for them during transportation and when they are taken on board ship.

At the conclusion of the evacuation process at 1300, the ship will leave for Larnaca, where special aircraft are waiting to airlift the wounded to Athens, Belgrade, and Cairo.

He added that Yasir 'Arafat this morning bade farewell to the wounded, whom he visited in their hospitals. 'Arafat then participated in the farewell that was given the wounded at the harbor.

About the arrival of the Greek ships that will ferry the Palestinian combatants, 'Abd ar-Rahman said: These ships are on their way to Tripoli, where the first of them are expected to arrive tomorrow evening. The Palestinian combatants will thenbegin grouping their forces, provided that the internal security forces assume responsibility for security in the city and for the departure.

'Abd ar-Rahman said that the evacuation is scheduled for completion on Tuesday morning, December 20.

French To Escort Palestinians

LD172017 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] France has decided to participate in the evacuation of Palestinians from Tripoli, in the north of Lebanon. Several French Navy ships will escort the five Greek ships evacuating the 4,000 partisans of Yasir 'Arafat on Monday morning.

This afternoon, 93 injured Palestinians left aboard an Italian ship. The operation took place without incident.

Future Force Deployment Discussed

NC182000 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has learned that a meeting was held at the Palestinian camp of Al-Baddawi north of Tripoli today bringing together representatives of the Coordination Committee of Tripoli, of the Palestinian Organization, and of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces. Discussions centered on the exchange of detainees and prisoners and the deployment of Lebanese Internal Security Forces in Tripoli after the departure of the followers of Yasir 'Arafat from the city.

Agreement has been reported only on the Palestinian Liberation Army and Syrian forces remaining present and on elements of all other forces withdrawing inside the camp.

It has been learned that the followers of 'Arafat recently executed six prisoners of war taken from the dissidents, although at today's meeting, the representative of 'Arafat did not admit such an incident took place.

Evacuation Postponed

NC190600 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Excerpt] An IDF spokesman has stated that naval ships bombarded Palestinian targets in Tripoli port at dawn today and that none of the Israeli force was harmed. The Israeli spokesman added that the ships scored direct hits, that fire was opened on the naval ships from the coastal area, but that no harm was done.

The correspondent of the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY in Tripoli contacted us this morning to report that the evacuation of the Palestinian fighters, which was scheduled to start today, has been postponed because of the Israeli Navy's continued bombardment of the Palestinian bases and positions. He said that the new pounding process began at 0430 this morning, that the bombardment lasted 15 minutes, and that the Palestinian artillery answered the attacking Israeli warships.

Sources of the security forces said that a merchant ship anchored inside the port was badly damaged.

Klibi on PLO Evacuation

NC190959 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 19 (AFP) — The shelling of the Lebanese port of Tripoli today, just as Palestinian combatants were preparing to evacuate, reflected Israel's pursuit of a policy of "hate and reprisal" in Lebanon, the Arab League secretary general said. Chedli Klibi, in a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE duirng a stopover in Paris, called on all countries "in a position to act" to "intervene rapidly" to guarantee the safe evacuation of Yasir 'Arafat and 4,000 loyalists who were to leave northern Lebanon today aboard five Greek vessels.

The Israeli naval bombardements proved once again that the "only policy Israel embraces is the policy of force and violence," he said, adding that a philosophy of "hate and reprisal" came as international guarantees for the safety of the Greek boats appeared to have been made.

Israeli Bombs Sink Ship

JN191120 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] A short while ago a Palestinian military spokesman announced that the time bombs dropped by Israeli aircraft at the entrance of Tripoli harbor exploded this morning, sinking one ship and damaging another.

'Arafat Interview

JN171201 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Dec 83 p 19

["Text" of interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar by *AD-DUSTUR* in Tripoli — date not given]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has warned against a new volcano that will shake the region soon. He said that the withdrawal of the resistance is part of the conspiracy to cause a rift among the Palestinians in the Middle East equation.

'Arafat thanked His Majesty King Husayn for inviting him to visit Jordan in these critical circumstances and said that this is a fraternal and humanitarian gesture. In light of this positive gesture, he expected that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue will continue, given that it is a historical responsibility and in implementation of the PNC resolutions.

This was contained in an exclusive interview *AD-DUSTUR* held with Yasir 'Arafat in his office in Az-Zahiriyah in Tripoli. The following is the text of the interview:

Question: You are at the threshold of your second departure from Lebanon. How do you assess this new stage for the PLO?

Answer: It is regrettable that I am leaving Tripoli the second Lebanese capital as a result of an Arab request, a Syrian request, and Libyan request as was openly stated today by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who said that Abu 'Ammar must leave Tripoli. When he spoke today, he confirmed his schemes. I put this on record so that our Arab nation may realize the dimensions of what the PLO has announced and so that it may join us in confronting those who, through many strenuous efforts, have tried to exploit the Palestinian card. This card has collapsed in the Tripoli battle and I would like to stress that what took place is not something that Libya and Syria can be proud of. Libya cannot be proud that it succeeded in making the PLO leave Tripoli. It will continue to be a mark of disgrace that will stain their foreheads. Many believe that this will weaken the PLO. This battle, however, through the great support which our people have expressed for the PLO, is the PLO's greatest victory because it represents the strength of the Palestinian people and the sound cohesion which exists between the PLO and our people inside and outside the occupied territories. This is really a great victory for us, and has exposed all the agents who are manipulated by the intelligence organs and who have been thrown into the garbage can of history. I have come to Tripoli, and I am with my Palestinian brother fighters, the sons of our people. As PLO

Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, I am dutybound to be with my brothers. Events have proved that our expectations were sound as our fighters faced a fierce and barbaric attack by the Syrian forces and the agents. I believe that my presence here has been in fulfillment of a historical trust which the PNC has entrusted to me. I never imagined at any moment whatsoever that any battle would take place without my being in its midst. Historically, I would have felt guilty had I not been at such a battle.

Question: For the first time the PLO will not be present inthe confrontation states. How will it reorganize its relations with the Palestinian people in those countries and its link with the occupied territories?

Answer: We are inside the occupied Arab territories. During the past 24 hours we carried out three military operations. Anyone who says that the PLO will no longer have anything to do with the daily life in Al-Yarmuk refugee camp ignores what has taken place in the Al-Yarmuk camp in terms of an upheaval of this camp in support for the PLO and the Palestinian revolution. Al-Yarmuk camp demonstrated and many martyrs fell in denunciation of the crime that is being committed against the PLO. We are also present in Nahr al-Barid camp which some beleived they had occupied. Look at what our kinfolk in the occupied territories are doing, at the historical message of the Egyptian Communist Party, the cable of Mahmud Amin al-'Alim, and at our people in Jordan. You will find that the steadfast stand of our people in Jordan has even had an impact on the official Jordanian media.

Question: We have learned that His Majesty King Husayn has invited you to visit Amman and that you will respond to this invitation.

Answer: I thank His Majesty King Husayn for this invitation, partcularly since it came during this siege. I consider this as a fraternal and humanitarian stand.

Question: Will this invitation bring about a new relationship with Jordan?

Answer: Before I came here I met with the "envoys" in Tunis and his majesty the king met also with the "envoys." Dialogue has not been suspended since April this year. I will grasp every opportunity and I will exert all efforts to encourage this Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue. This is a historical responsibility I shoulder and a political one too. I have been elected by the PNC in light of a program. In light of this program I pursued a dialogue with Jordan for the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederal union. This is the PNC's wish.

Question: Will you continue to follow this up?

Answer: I will, God willing, if circumstances allow me to do so.

Question: Jordan's agreement to host the Palestinian Research Center has had a positive impact on all as well as on all the steps that followed. How do you view the future of this relationship?

Answer: It was a generous gesture for his majesty the king to issue orders for hosting the Palestinian Research Center, and when he followed it with other positive stands when he received number of Palestinian fighters who had arrived in Jordan.

Question: We have heard that some groups may depart Tripoli for Amman?

Answer: No, this has not yet been discussed. However, I heard that some contacts are taking place with officials in Amman.

Question: In light of what is taking place, how do you view the situation in the region?

Answer: When I departed Beirut, I said that this is a volcano, but many people did not believe that. What does this volcano carry? What happened in Beirut? What happened in the north and the mountain? What is happening now is the volcano. The volcano has reached Israel, and has forced Begin to resign. This volcano is moving in the Arab region. In the United States, Reagan was forced to erect concrete and sand barriers in front of the White House just as we place concrete and sand barriers here in Tripoli.

I have placed these barriers because I am a revolutionaryand I am trying to defend the city and the refugee camps, whilehe was forced to erect the barriers to protect himself. He said that what is taking place in northern Lebanon will decide the future of the region. Sharon said that Yasir 'Arafat must not leave Tripoli alive. What does this mean?

This means that what is happening is part of a blatant conspiracy to divide the Palestinian people and eliminate them from the Middle East equation. I do not believe that the Palestinian revolution will perish. 'Abd an-Nasir said that the revolution is born to stay. It is born to stay and triumph. Many people cannot view the historical prospect nor can they see a few meters and centimeters before them. We must realize that there is a U.S.-Israeli conspiracy in which some Arab parties are participating to divide Lebanon in order to balkanize the region. He who reads Kissinger's memoirs will read about balkanization. I consider this a U.S. triumph in controling the Arab region. I warned against this situation. You see the moving volcano in the Arab region.

Question: We heard that the French and Italian forces will withdraw from Lebanon?

Answer: I heard this too.

Question: Is this a sign that the United States will carry out a military action in the region?

Answer: I say that the region is a pitfall. All those who have not realized this saying [fragment as published] I have cautioned and warned against this situation.

Question: Are there some fears about a U.S. attack against Beirut's southern suburbs?

Answer: I have cautioned. There are fears about the southern suburbs and the mountain.

Question: Does this mean that the situation is very dangerous?

Answer: It is a volcano.

Question: It has been said that the Soviets have set a red line for the Syrians in regard to their pressure against the PLO and their departure, but its seems that there are indications of going back on this. What is your comment on this?

Answer: The time of departure has not yet been fixed. It may take more than 15 days.

Question: How do you assess the Soviet stand on this situation?

Answer: The Soviets themselves must say this. I received my last letter from the Soviets on 27 October 1983. The Soviets are exerting efforts to prevent the conflagration in Tripoli However, it seems that they have not succeeded in this objective.

Question: Are there expectations that the battles will break out again when the 15-day withdrawal operation is completed?

Answer: There is a Syrian siege around Tripoli.

Question: Do the fears still exist?

Answer: There are about two Syrian divisions, two brigades from the Palestine Liberation Army, one Libyan brigade, rocket launchers, many tanks, and about 40 heavy artillery pieces, in addition to medium artillery and tank guns. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is threatenting to attack Tripoli. All this exposes the reality of the conspiracy.

You know that when the Libyan officers entered there, they were surprised when they saw the mosques, and wondered: How come this is a Jewish city and there are mosques in it? They forgot that this is an Arab and Islamic city.

Some Libyan officers said that according to their information this is an Israeli settlement. I have six Libyan prisioners, and one of them told me that he was informed that he was going to storm an Israeli settlement.

Question: Are there any guarantees safeguarding the various groups in Tripoli which supported you after your withdrawal?

Answer: Rashid Karami, the Saudis, and the Syrians have informed me that there will be a guarantee for the refugee camps and the civilians.

Question: On the basis of the contents of [former] Prime Minister Karami's letter, it is being said that there is a flaw in the agreement that was reached.

Answer: In his letter, Karami says "simultaneous security."

Question: Does this mean that the other party will also withdraw from the camps?

Answer: He did not mention any specific camp. He said: either to the camps or to the Al-Biqa'.

Question: What if the other party does not withdraw from the camps?

Answer: They will be violating the agreement. I believe that there is a plan to achieve this. As to what extent they will be sincere, this depends on them. I say that whether the Libyans, Syrians, or dissidents withdraw or not is not important because the Syrians, at any moment, can return or can, if they wish, mobilize another party. The Libyans can also return because these areas are under Syrian control and are a Syrian responsibility. The Al-Yarmuk refugee camp is in Syrian territory and under Syrian control. I cannot imagine that anyone can deny Syria's responsibility for this camp. It will be recorded in history that I have not handed Tripoli over to the Israelis. I will hand it over to the Syrian Army, to the Syrian Arab Army. It will be the responsibility of the Syrian Army, the Higher Coordination Committee, Karami, and the Saudi guarantees.

Question: We have heard that President Amin al-Jumayyil has protested against the withdrawal operation in this manner?

Answer: The truth is that he did not protest. One must take into consideration that these are Lebanese territories and he clarified this. I have also said that the Lebanese State has the right to be informed about the entrance of any vessel and that all vessels must hoist the Lebanese flag in Lebanese territorial waters. I have also called for the participation of Lebanese security forces alongside the forces that Prime Minister Karami will appoint to carry out a disengagement of forces. This is one of the rights of the Lebanese State.

Question: Are there any current contacts with the Lebanese Government?

Answer: All the Lebanese officials in Tripoli are in contact with us.

Question: Will the situation of the Lebanese citizens in the north be discussed with the Lebanese State?

Answer: The ADF are present in the north and the Palestinians are within the Syrian's zone of influence. So far, the Lebanese Government cannot discuss these matters from a practical point of view.

Question: There is Palestinian apprehension in Beirut that if the PLO leaves Lebanon, and if the security situation explodes once again, Palestinian camps will be invaded.

Answer: The Beirut camps have received more than their share of abuses and there is nothing left in them to be abused.

Question: The epic of the continuous Palestinian people's exodus embodies the tribulation of the Palestinian individual. What imprint has this left on Abu 'Ammar, the struggler and the man?

Answer: We are the phoenix of our Arab nation in this era. In spite of the successive sieges, we have an appointment with the

Palestinian masses soon because the deluge and the volcanoes will change many landmarks in this region and, God willing, we will hoist the flag of Palestine on the hills of Jerusalem.

Fatah Dissidents Call for 'Arafat's Resignation

JN190822 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — Brothers Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], and Samih Abu Kuwayk, leaders of the Fatah revolutionary uprising, held a news conference yesterday evening. Representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies and of Syrian radio and television attended the news conference.

The uprising leaders disclosed the deviant trend of Yasir 'Arafat and his rightist clique as well as 'Arafat's collusion with the U.S. plan and its agents in the region with the aim of liquidating the Palestinian question and imposing capitulatory plans on the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Brother Abu Salih stressed that the uprising's democratic movement seeks to entrench Palestinian unity within the framework of an effective front aimed at liberating the land and restoring the Palestinian Arab people's rights. He indicated that Yasir 'Arafat and his clique are rejecting a democratic dialogue and prefer to resort to arms. He called for 'Arafat's resignation, since he has lost the unanimous Palestinian support of the Fatah movement and the PLO. Abu Salih called on the Palestinian fighters whom 'Arafat wants to evacuate from Tripoli to stay where they are in order to fight Israel. He welcomed any Palestinian fighter to the fight against Israel.

Abu Musa stressed in this news conference that the Fatah organizations in both Arab and foreign countries support the uprising movement, which is determined to continue fighting and to continue carrying the rifle. Abu Musa condemned 'Arafat's allegations and falsehoods about the support certain Arab circles are allegedly extending to the uprising movement. He added that 'Arafat is using such lies to evade the democratic confrontation within the Fatah movement.

Regarding 'Arafat's possible call for a Fatah congress, Brother Samih Abu Kuwayk said that the majority of Fatah members belong to the Al-'Asifah forces, which support the uprising. Therefore, he said, we believe that it will be impossible for 'Arafat to hold such a congress. As for convening the PNC, he said: There are six Palestinian organizations. These are: The Fatah uprising movement, the PFLP-GC, As-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the PFLP. These organizations have announced that they reject the convocation of the PNC, as this poses a danger to the PLO's unity.

The conferees issued a statement stressing that 'Arafat is planning to withdraw the Palestinian revolution fighters from Lebanon to somewhere far from confrontation with the Zionist enemy. They added that 'Arafat is trying to turn the Fatah conflict into a conflict with Syria in order to divert attention from the true nature and causes of the conflict. The statement warned that 'Arafat may adopt hardline verbal stands in an attempt to hold a Fatah congress and later to hold a PNC session or complete the dialogue with King Husayn on the basis of the Reagan plan. He will then continue to play his suspect role.

The statement stressed that 'Arafat will not manage to hold a legitimate and legal congress, and that his destiny will be a downfall, away from the revolution. It called on him to resign so that the revolution can continue its struggle. It added that the revolutionary uprising will move on to a more serious stage in order to settle the conflict in favor of the PLO's unity and its political line, with the aim of achieving an effective and militant revolutionary awakening in alliance with the Arab liberation movement and this movement's national forces and regimes, and with the socialist countries, headed by the friendly USSR.

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir on Tripoli Fighting

GF161730 Manama WAKH in English 1517 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Dec (WAKH) — Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, deputy PLO chairman, described Tripoli battle as a catastrophe for the Palestinian revolution. In an interview with WAKH correspondent in Tripoli, Abu Jihad placed the Palestinian losses in Tripoli at 600 killed and 1,500 wounded. "The heavy losses were suffered by the Palestinian and the Lebanese civilians" he said.

Asked on the government-in-exile which the PLO intends to declare after leaving Tripoli, Abu Jihad said we will not form any government-in-exile unless the features of the Palestinian state are made clear.

Abu Jihad warned against calls rejecting armed struggle in favour of media or policy.

Fedayeen Attack Israeli Vehicle in Netanya

JN181719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Despite all the Zionist enemy's measures and security precautions, our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are continuing their heroic activities against the Zionist occupation's various positions and patrols. A group of our revolutionaries blew up a Zionist military vehicle in Netanya using high explosive charges. Several occupation soldiers were wounded or killed and several Zionist military vehicles that passed by the target vehicle sustained extensive damage.

A Zionist spokesman admitted the operation and said that immediately afterward, his forces cordoned off the area and carried out an intensive search for the perpetrators of the daring operation, who returned safely to base.

Algiers VOP Cites Khalaf Denial of NEWSWEEK Report

LD182356 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has denied that brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has ever pledged to the Americans that American interests will not be affected, or gave the French names of members of the Armenian Secret Army or other secret organizations operating in France. The U.S. *NEWSWEEK* magazine stated in its latest issue that Brother Abu Iyad pledged to the United States that U.S. interests would not be affected and that the Fatah movement would not take part in any fight against the American Marines. *NEWSWEEK* added that brother Abu Iyad revealed to the French Government names of members of the Armenian Secret Army and other secret organizations operating in France.

The source said that the Americans, who are now entering a fresh phase of direct military intervention against the Lebanese and the Palestinians, sending in more Marines to the Lebanese coasts and signing an agreement on strategic cooperation with the Zionist enemy, must be regarded as aggressors leading the region toward destruction. The source added: Our struggle against the Zionist enemy is basically a struggle against international imperialism, particularly American imperialism, that implanted this enemy as a policeman threatening all the region, and the pledge mentioned by *NEWSWEEK* is not of Brother Abu Iyad's prerogative, as he said in a statement yesterday, but that of the FATAH movement and the Palestinian revolution with all its organs because it would mean a change of strategy.

As to linking this report with other fabricated reports concerning what *NEWSWEEK* called disclosure of names of members of the Armenian Secret Army and other organizations operating in France, this is nothing but a [word indistinct] and a surprising link that the western information media have adopted. *NEWSWEEK* has exploited the growing political relations between the PLO and France in order to justify its fabricated reports. At the same time it wanted to undermine these relations by putting them in the context of an exchange of security information. Quite the contrary: The Palestinian revolution believes that a daily message must be given and cruel blows must be dealt to the aggressive Marine force in other to force them to leave Lebanon, to stop interfering in the domestic affairs of others and permanently jeopardizing security and peace and the vital interests of the Arab nations.

Baghdad PLO on Syrian-Israeli-U.S. Collusion

JN161923 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1632 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, following the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel during criminal Shamir's visit to Washington, there are those who are asking how the United States would deal with Syria in light of this, particularly since the United States is looking forward to changing Syria — within the framework of Kissinger's strategic policy — into a principal regional force entrusted with the task of preserving the U.S. and western interests that are too difficult for Israel to preserve.

Informed U.S. sources expressed their belief that Washington's dispute with Damascus is centered on the price that the Syrian regime is asking in return for playing a principal role in serving U.S. interests in the region. Syria's conditions demand that the United States agree to consider Syria as a great regional force and respect Syria's legitimate security and political interests in Lebanon, and agree to allow Syria to ply a major role in the U.S. process. However, observers believe that the United States is no longer willing to accept these Syrian conditions and demands after reaching a complete and final reliance on Israel.

Observers favor launching a wide-scale Israeli military operation in Al-Biqa' in order to shuffle the cards and create new realities, thus forcing the Syrian regime to accept the proposed U.S. concept. Informed Western sources believe that the United States would need to have several important issues clarified before such an operation could take place. Foremost of these issues is the Syrian regime completing its task of liquidating thePLO's last trench in Lebanon — a task that enjoys complete U.S. support; second is convening the second round of the Lebanese reconciliation talks in Geneva so that the United States can be certain of the desired flexibility in the Syrian position. Informed U.S. sources said that the Reagan Administration wants to achieve the following objectives from the military operation:

First, create a new reality that will cancel talk of foiling the 17 May agreement. Second, achieve an extensive, but not comprehensive, withdrawal of the Syrian and Zionist forces in order to pave the way for expanding the deployment of the Lebanese Army and legitimate authority. Third, use the multinational force to reinforce the security situation. Fourth, [word indistinct] the Lebanese situation until after the Lebanese presidential election.

According to informed political and press sources, these objectives can be achieved through a limited Israeli military operation against the Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' and mountain areas to be followed by a cease-fire agreement and negotiations to separate both sides' forces. On this basis, international forces could be deployed to separate the two sides. Naturally, the presence of international forces to separate the Syrian and Israeli forces will lead to reinforcing a stable armistice, and thus to preventing a comprehensive Syrian-Israeli confrontation and achieving wide-Scale Syrian and Israeli withdrawals that would help the Lebanese authority to expand its security and political control. Moreover, this would lead to better conditions for the multinational force.

However, the principal problem facing the United States is represented in how to contain the Israeli operation so that it remains outside the influence of the Soviet-Syrian treaty. Will Syria avoid the limited confrontation with Israel by making more concessions? What is taking place in Tripoli indicates that the Syrian regime favors this option.

BAHRAIN

Heir Apparent Arrives Home From Jordan

GF181850 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 18 Dec (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparant and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, returned to his country from Amman this evening after a several-days visit to Jordan.

During the visit Shaykh Hamad held talks with King Husayn of Jordan and with Crown Prince Hasan on bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab and international arenas, in addition to issues of mutual concern.

KUWAIT

Minister of State Interviewed on Explosions

JN161957 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1742 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Interview with 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs, in Kuwait by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal and carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow"; date not specified — recorded]

[Text][Antoine Nawfal] Your Excellency, Kuwait is living in an unprecedented atmosphere — namely, the atmosphere of explosions.This may have affected the people. What is your view of the situation 3 days after these explosions?

['Abd al-'Aziz Husayn] Kuwaiti did not expect these explosions, which were aimed at disturbing its security and stability. This country is well known for its stability and security, and for the safety of all those who live in it — both Kuwaiti nationals and foreigners. I can say that what happened did not shake the people or the competent authorities. They faced it with patience and wisdom. Last Monday's explosions proved that our society is united, that they are one people who preserve the spirit of cooperation and work as one man in such circumstances. There have been incidents in Kuwait that were aimed at certain public and private establishments, but these incidents were limited. They were carried out by groups or individuals who were limited in their number and aims. However, what happened on Monday was undoubtedly preplanned, because some of the operations that took place could not have happened without careful planning, financial support, and an exact knowledge of the country and its establishments, particularly the sensitive spots and the areas that affect life in Kuwait.

[Nawfal] But the question that jumps to mind is: Why Kuwait in particular?

[Husayn] It is difficult to answer this question. However, there is no doubt that Kuwait is a free, open country. We are experimenting in various fields. There are social, cultural, and political experiments. Some people may not like all of these Kuwaiti characteristics. I believe that some people consider these characteristics as targets, for more than one reason. When Kuwait opened its doors to all those who could contribute toward the country's development and the development of the region, it did so because it was convinced that its path was the sound path, a path that realizes both Kuwait's national interest and the pan-Arab interest.

[Nawfal] Do you believe that those who planned this criminal act were aiming against Kuwait alone, or against other Gulf states as well?

[Husayn] It was aimed against Kuwait. Kuwait is part of the Gulf and is an active GCC member. When Kuwait becomes a target, all the Gulf states and the states in the region will be subjected to such criminal acts. Thank God the explosion in Kuwait took place when the country was ready to face them and eliminate their consequences. We hope that no Gulf state will be exposed o such incidents. As I said, we are united as one body. If a part of this body is affected, the whole body will be affected.

[Nawfa] The media talked about arrests among some foreigners from certain nationalities. Can you give us an idea on the latest findings in the investigations?

[Husayn] The Kuwaiti security apparatus is very aware of its responsibility. This apparatus began to actively search and investigate the crime in various places. The security men were able to find numerous connections, and they have arrested a number of suspects who are being interrogated. The security apparatus has seized many pieces of evidence. For the benefit of the investigation process, it is better not to divulge either the number of those arrested or their affiliations. No doubt we are proceeding on the sound path in order to apprehend the criminals.

[Nawfal] What measures have you taken? Are these measures sufficient to prevent these incidents from happening again?

[Husayn] One cannot say that they are enough. We have undoubtedly passed through a very beneficial experiment that will teach us to avoid similar incidents. This experiment will also benefit countries that are similar to Kuwait — particularly the Gulf states, which we hope will not experience such a thing. The security situation in our country is good, not only in terms of the security apparatus but also in terms of our people's awareness and their cohesion — whether they are Kuwaiti nationals or foreigners. This helped the security men to obtain many pieces of evidence and take positive steps in order to achieve concrete results.

[Nawfal] Some restrictions were imposed, particularly on the travel of foreign nationals. I believe that these restrictions were lifted yesterday. However, how will Kuwait deal with foreigners in the future?

[Husayn] First of all, the foreigners who live among us are welcomed in Kuwait because they came with Kuwait's approval. They are contributing with us to building this country, whether they are Arabs or non-Arabs. They are always welcomed. When the incident took place, specific measures were adopted that were intended to prevent suspects from leaving the country. The airport was not closed as a preventive measure and planes were not banned from landing in Kuwait, even though the airport tower was a target for the explosions. However, some restrictions were imposed on the travel of certain groups for a short period of time. The intention was to check rather than prevent. Checks are continuing on all those arriving or leaving the country who are not suspected of being disruptive elements in the Kuwaiti society.

[Nawfal] Do you expect modifications to Kuwaiti policy in the future regarding foreign labor?

[Husayn] State officials were studying this issue before the incidents in order to determine the suitable number of foreigners in relation to native citizens. As I have mentioned, the presence of non-Kuwaitis is approved of and welcomed by the state and national bodies. However, Kuwait's policy on immigration, nationality, and increasing the population needs planning, support, and the provision of housing facilities. All of these issues are being studied in detail by the country's specialists [words indistinct] this study by some officials. In the end the issue of increasing foreign labor in Kuwait will become clear.

[Nawfal] Allow me, minister, to return to the explosions. Do you link what took place in Kuwait with similar acts in Beirut?

[Husayn] Everything that happens in the region is a consequece of the Palestinian issue. In other words, the presence of the Israeli foreign body in the region. We believe that all issues are interrelated. The continuing Israeli aggression in Lebanese events and the Iraqi-Iranian war cannot be separated. All of these issues are in the same boat. Things that happen in Kuwait or any area in the Middle East, particularly in the Arab region, are all interrelated.

[Nawfal] Did you expect such incidents?

[Husayn] We cannot say that we expected what actually took place. However, we live in an atmosphere of security and peace that made us imagine that we could not possibly be exposed to such heinous crime. This is because we pursue an open policy, as I have mentioned, a policy of brotherhood with everyone, a policy of freedom and democracy in the country, of strong relations with East and West, and strong and good relations with our Arab brothers everywhere. Everyone knows that our political line is based on principles and values, and is unaffected by such incidents. Although we believed that anyone who pursues such policy will be appreciated by everyone, every age has deviants, saboteurs, covetous persons, and those who want to achieve private objectives. Therefore, we, like others, are exposed to such incidents; however, we may be luckier than some because we can face them courageously, wisely, and cohesively.

[Nawfal] Mr Minister, were you not surprised that some friendly and fraternal countries did not react?

[Husayn] We are proud of those who showed us sympathyand they are numerous — individuals, groups, and governments. This is sufficient for us. This great number and torrid flow of cables, telephone calls, and personal visits made us feel that there is a place for us in the hearts of others. You cannot imagine the great number of contacts by individuals — and not only by officials, but by ordinary Kuwaiti citizens from all corners of the world, particularly from our Arab homeland. However, if there are those who failed to react, we forgive them for their failure.

[Nawfal] Kuwait is proud of its democracy. However, in light of what has happened and the security measures that may be adopted, do not you think that this democratic atmosphere will be affected in the long run?

[Husayn] I believe thinks will be quite the opposite. Our democracy and the freedom this small community enjoys enabled us to confront what happened as one man. The best example in this regard is the stand of [words indistinct] and not the government who called for a meeting in the government house to discuss what happened. Morale was very high. Complete coordination was demonstrated between the members of parliament and the government officials. The great statement the parliament issued was a clear example of this unity and cohesion. The statement reiterated the parliament's complete confidence both in the government and in its measures. The statement asked the government to strictly adopt the measures it deems appropriate in order to preserve the country's security and stability and to uncover the criminals' identity so that they can be punished. The parliament's stand expressed the stand of all the people. This is one aspect of the democracy we are exercising in Kuwait. I hope that these explosions were not aimed, among many other things, against this climate in which we are living. We are aware of all this. Our country continues to enjoy this democratic climate in which we are living. We are very concerned about this climate.

[Nawfal] But public opinion made it clear through the parliament and the press that it wants Kuwait to strike firmly. Will this be the policy you will adopt against the saboteurs?

[Husayn] The saboteurs will be punished in accordance with the laws in practice. The Ministry of Interior will use all of its authority in this regard. We used to be lenient about certain issues due to various human reasons. There will be no more leniency. Things will be handled firmly and through the laws, which authorize the state to behave firmly in order to deter anyone who tries to harm the country's security or to undermine either its stability or the atmosphere of freedom that everyone enjoys.

[Nawfal] Concluding this talk, can we say that there is mutual confidence and unity between the people and the government?

[Husayn] The government stems from the people. The people can point out any shortcoming at any time. The people can always tell the government that it is incapable of leading this country. We thank God that we have an attentive supreme leadership represented in his highness the amir. I will tell you something I personally experienced regarding this last incident of the explosions. I was with the heads of the delegations participating in a seminar organized in Kuwait about the history of science in the Arab world. I was in the audience of his highness the amir when he received a note concerning the explosions. No one but his highness knew about the content of the note. In spite of that, his highness continued to attend the seminar as was originally scheduled. We quietly discussed scientific affairs as if nothing had happened. As we were walking out after the meeting, his highness told me about what happened — although all of us heard the sound of the blasts. This is the spirit distinguishing the Kuwaiti leadership.

Another example is the initiative of his highness the heir apparent and prime minister. When the blast took place, his highness called for an open and continued session of the Council of Ministers. He also asked the Council to occasionally issue detailed statements telling the full truth to the people. Therefore, there was no room for rumors and terrorism. The people have been assured that there is an attentive, careful leadership which is working for the people's interest and which enjoys their support. This support is represented by the members of parliament and the strong ties among the various groups in this quiet small country. We hope that we will continue in this way. We also hope that this distinguishing characteristic will continue to prevail in our country and in all the other Arab countries.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Mr Minister.

Precautions Taken on Sale of Gas Cylinders

GF171200 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Amir Abu as-Sa'ud Report]

[Text] All gas retail branches at cooperative societies have begun implementing new instructions to write down the name and address of everyone who wants to change or buy gas cylinders whether this be for personal use in houses or for restaurants and bakeries.

This measure was adopted following the explosions which hit the country in which gas cylinders were used.

In a statement to *AS-SIYASAH*, 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Madahkah, president of the union of cooperative societies, has said this decision has been made in agreement between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Union of Cooperative Societies and has been circulated to all societies to be implemented with regard to changing or purchasing of cylinders. The decision also stipulated that no more than four cylinders should be sold at a time.

Names and addresses of individuals together with the number of cylinders and date of purchase will be recorded in special records, Al-Madahkah said. As for restaurants and bakeries, license and identity cards should be brought, he added.

Authorities Display Seized Weapons, Ammunition

LD181527 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] A security official at the Interior Ministry has today shown the cameramen of Kuwait television and the KUNA representative the weapons that the security authorities have seized with the culprits of the recent explosion incidents.

In Sabah as-Salim suburb they seized the following weapons: 1) Different kinds of machineguns 2) Magazines 3) Pouches.

In Julayb ash-Shiyukh, the following weapons were seized: 1) Different kind of tanks 2) Machineguns 3) Ammunition 4) Different kinds of shells 5) Different kinds of guns for firing these shells.

In Firdaws region the following weapons were seized: 1) Different kinds and calibers of pistols 2) Magazines full of bullets 3) Different kinds of ammunition 4) Timers 5) Explosives 6) Batteries and electric connections.

State Minister Reports on Bombing Perpetrators

LD180952 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Dec (KUNA) — The minister of state for Cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, announced here today that 10 persons have been arrested and admitted planning and perpetrating the bombings, participating in implementing them, and possessing the explosives which were used. Explosives, armaments, and detonators which belong to the culprits, were found in houses in Sabah as-Salim, Julayb ash-Shiyukh, and Firdaws suburbs outside the capital.

He said in a statement to KUNA immediately after a Cabinet session this morning that 12 persons, among whom there are 7 Iraqis and 3 Lebanese, all of whom belong to the so-called Islamic AD-Da'wah Party, are involved. He said that among these persons is the one who drove the vehicle that stormed the American Embassy and died in the exlosion. It has been proved from analyzing his fingerprints that he was an Iraqi named (Ra'd 'Uqayl al-Badran) and that according to the confessions of his detained colleagues he belongs to the same party. There is also another person still being sought who is also an Iraqi and belongs to the same party.

He added that it has been proved that the weapons used and the weapons which were found were smuggled into Kuwait by sea.

He pointed out that this case and all that the Ministry of the Interior has found will be referred to the state security court.

OMAN

Qabus Confers With Visiting UK Minister 17 Dec

GF171854 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus received today at the Sultanate's second palace British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, his majesty discussed with his guest the distinguished relations between the Sultanate and Britain. He also reviewed a number of issues, including the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in Lebanon, Palestinian issues, and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah.

Richard Luce noted that he conveyed during the meeting the greetings and good wishes of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to his majesty the sultan. He added in a statement to acorrespondent of the newspaper *'UMAN* that his majesty the sultan asked him to convey his gratitude and greetings to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Answering a question on the most important issues that he discussed with his majesty during the meeting, he said that he discussed with his majesty the ways to enhance cooperation between our friendly countries. He added: We also discussed a number of Arab and international matters, including the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Iraqi-Iranian war. We also exchanged views on a number of issues requiring our attention, including the aspiration of our two countries to attain peace and reconciliation in the world. The British minister pointed out that British-Omani relations are continuously becoming firmer owing to the efforts undertaken by the officials in both countries to develop and reinforce them.

SAUDI ARABIA

Sultan on Kuwait Explosions, U.S. Relations

LD162036 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpts] London, 16 Dec (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, considers the possibilities of war in the region to be remote. His highness said that we will not stay silent if Israel commits aggression against any Arab country.

His Highness Prince Sultan, in a long interview to be published tomorrow in *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* and *AL-BILAD*, described the renewal of the strategic cooperation agreement between America and Israel as an unsuccessful step. His highness places responsibility for the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from Lebanese territories on the shoulders of the United States.

Concerning Monday's explosions in Kuwait, his highness stressed that the hand that committed the explosions is a criminal foreign hand, and it must be confronted with serious actions and punishments.

Here is the text of Prince Sultan's interview:

Q. Can you inform us about the sbjects you discussed with President Suharto and Indonesian officials?

A. First, the aim of the visit was to consolidate and renew relations between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic countries.

Q. What form of military cooperation can be established between the Kingdom and Indonesia?

A. As a matter of fact you cannot say that my visit was of a military nature because Indonesia is not a country having a large military industry or a military industrial attitude similar to that of industrial countries.

Q. What is your comment on the recent explosions in Kuwait, and do you think that terrorist actions in the Gulf have begun a new stage?

A. First, concerning what happened in Kuwait, I cannot say more than what has been issued by the cabinet, headed by His Majesty King Fahd, and the statement explaining the position of the Kingdom as a people, the government, and the leadership.

Q. There is a belief that there is a foreign source behind the explosions aimed at exerting pressure to change the political stance toward the Gulf war. What is your opinion?

A. I believe, as you do, that the hands that committed these explosions are neither Kuwaiti nor Arab. I doubt that there is any Arab hand that would sabotage one of its own countries. It must be a foreign hand. However, I cannot specify the source behind these events because it is a Kuwaiti concern, and I think that it will later issue a statement in which it will affirm and explain who is the criminal hand.

Q. What are your views on the Islamic summit to be held next month in Morocco?

A. I think it will be successful.

Q. King Fahd said that the Kingdom welcomes the holding of the postponed Arab Summit, whose resolutions will be a new step for the joint Arab action. Do you think that circumstances are now right for holding the summit?

A. I believe that Saudi Arabia, as a host, welcomes and will continue to welcome the holding of the summit in its capital. However, we cannot assess the success or the failure as a host country. We have left the matter for Arab kings, presidents, and the chairman of the Arab League to fix an appropriate date. I believe that the Arab foreign ministers will meet in Morocco either at the time of their attending the Islamic summit or before it, especially as many Arab leaders will be present. I believe the summit date will be fixed then.

Q. The United States and Israel have renewed their strategic cooperation agreement. What do you think of this step and what is the extent of its effects on Arab-American relations?

A. I think that it is an unfortunate step, and I think that the United States is still living in the shadows of the Zionist illusion. However, I think that President Reagan and his administration represent probably one of the best American governments in the few past years with regard to understanding Arab issues. But everything depends on Arab steadfastness, Arab solidarity, and Arab rationalism. The stronger the Arabs unite, the more the major powers — at the forefront of which are the United States and the Soviet Union — will see that there is a nation which wants to live and to build and which tries to restore its dignity and lands. The more the Arabs scatter, the weaker their position in the world will be; this is something we cannot accept for the Arab nation.

Q: How do you view the security situation and possibilities for peace in Lebaonon after the visit of President al-Jumayyil to Washington and his empty-handed return in light of the signing of the Israeli-American strategic agreement?

A: In fact, I have no details about the nautre of the Washington talks between Presidents al-Jumayyil and Reagan. Therefore, I cannot say that if he returned empty handed or if he returned with something in Lebanon's interest. The indications are that there is nothing positive. I personally believe that the United States is liable for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and responsible for Lebanon's security all the time that there is aggressive Israeli presence. As to the period after the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, its security will be the responsibility of its people, its homeland, and its Arab nation. The situation now is fraught with ambiguity and caution, and I pray to God that the cloud will pass and that there will be positive action. This is what we wish.

Q: The Iraqi-Iranian war has entered its 4th year. Are there any substantial dangers caused by this war?

A: Since the outbreak of this war, and until this day, the security of the region has been threatened, because a war blazing between your neighbors, regardless of its size, may one day engulf neighboring countries. We all hope that Iran will take the direction to which every man who loves good and these two countries strives.

Q: Clashes, skirmishes, and confrontations are taking place in Lebanon, including a Syrian-American confrontation. Do you believe that these provocations [taharrushat] might lead to a new war in the Middle East?

A: I do not believe so, because the outbreak of war is not in the interest of any party. Others may think that in the event of the outbreak of war, it will be in Israel's interest, but I do not believe this at all because should a war break out between Israel and any Arab country, the other Arab countries will not stand idle, militarily or otherwise. An outbreak of war will definitely harm Israel, its interests, and the one who stands behind Israel. I do not believe that there is an Arab country which wants to enter into direct war with Israel. The Arabs declared their opinion at the Fes summit. They now want and desire peace based on right and justice. The peace door is still open and work in this direction is continuing. As to the skirmishes that break out every now and then, I believe that they fall within the context of the war of nerves and require from us caution, patience, alertness, and constructive thought, both by our armed forces and our Arab society.

Q: Do you believe that there are now signs for peace in the region? If so, on what grounds do you visualize them?

A: I believe that the coming two conferences — I mean the Arab and the Islamic summits — are the two conferences after which one can evaluate the situation, because we are now in a period of caution and stagnation. These forthcoming summits should define the attitudes in the light of which one can evaluate whether there will be war, if that war is inevitable, or if there will be peace.

Q: Do you look at peace through the Arab peace plan and its development?

A: I believe that the Arab peace plan, which was adopted by all states, including the communist countries and the United States, and which was rejected only by Israel, is a good basis. The declared Arab peace plan — no matter how many minor amendments are made to it, which might be imposed by circumstances — its foundations and principles will remain firm and unchanged.

Q: Do you believe that the circumstances which led to Egypt's exit from the Arab League still exist, and what are the chances of Egypt's participating in the Arab summit?

A: Some may avoid answering this question, but I want to be frank.Egypt's temporary exit from the Arab League is a great loss to the Arab nation. But the Arab nation is not the one which has agrieved Egypt. President as-Sadat took a step that was contradictory to the interests of Egypt. Perhaps the people and Government of Egypt feel that the gains achieved by As-Sadat do not outweigh Egypt's loss of Arab cooperation. There is no hostility between the Arab peoples, especially the people and leadership of our Kingdom, and the dear people of Egypt. There is only a declared political dispute toward President as-Sadat's behavior which was outside Arab consensus. We hope His Excellency President Mubarak and the people of Egypt, represented by the government and parliament, will have the courage to return proudly to their Arab nation, as proud as Egypt was, is, and always will be — God willing.

Q: How do you view the military cooperation between the Gulf states, especially after the conclusion of the military exercises between the Kuwaiti and Saudi air forces?

A: Since the decision by Gulf leaders for defense ministers and chiefs of staff to meet and decide on the nature of military cooperation, consultations have been held and positive steps taken to realize this cooperation. There is no (?extra effort) concerning cooperation between the Gulf states because cooperation already existed, but on a bilateral basis. Cooperation has now become collective, and several agreements have been concluded in various military fields, such as on the possibility of the development of a war industry in the area, arrangements for military training in academies — which already exists in the Gulf states. Also, with regard to joint military maneuvers, next year there will be broad military maneuvers by the Gulf states in the Kingdom in which all the Gulf states will take part, probably including air and land forces. There will also be bilateral naval maneuvers, for example, between the Kingdom and Kuwait, between Bahrain and Oman, between the Kingdom and Qatar, or between the UAE and Kuwait. This follows from the success of the land forces' maneuvers held on the fraternal UAE soil. They were successful and so there will now be bilateral maneuvers between the Gulf states. What is important is that the maneuvers continue at land, sea, and air level according to the circumstances and abilities of each Gulf state so that this military flexibility will pave the way for the coming maneuvers in the Kingdom. Maneuvers will continue in all the Gulf states as they assist in the development of Gulf military capability by way of interaction and the universality of military technology among Gulf states and the participation of each Gulf state according to its abilities.

Q: Your Highness, as an Arab official, what has prevented the realization of Arab reconciliation despite all the efforts made and despite the serious Arab situation through which we are currently passing?

A: If I said that it is due to the lack of success on the part of the Arab nation, it would be true; and if I said it is due to the circumstances of each Arab state, whether domestic or political, it could also be true; but what I would like to stress is this: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd, will continue in its efforts to bring about reconciliation among the Arabs, whatever obstacles it may have to surmount. It will continue its path and it will make efforts to bring the Arab nation together, to settle their differences, and strengthen the Arab ranks in order to confront the dangers threatening the nation.

Prince Bandar on Lebanon, U.S.-Israeli Agreement

PM172035 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Dec 83 pp 41-45

[Interview with Ambassador to United States Prince Bandar ibn Sultan by Raghidah Durgham in Washington — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The Americans are complaining. They ask: Why do the influential Arab states not use their influence to persuade Syria to negotiate, not with Israel, but with Lebanon, and to clarify its demands in Lebanon?

Answer: The answer to this question is twofold. The United States cannot ask Syria's friends to pressure it into doing something while the United States appears to be unable or unwilling to pressure Israel into showing flexibility on the question of withdrawal from Lebanon. Such a request, or concept, would be unrealistic. On the other hand, we have recently noticed that there are good contacts between Lebanon and Syria. Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam has visited Beirut, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Salim has visited Damascus. There are were telephone contacts between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad before the latter's illness. This means that the Syrian-Lebanon dialogue has actually begun. This is a good sign. I do not believe that the Syrian and Lebanese brothers will have any trouble developing this dialogue to cover details.

Question: Let us go back to what you have already said about the East-West equation. Do you agree with the opinion that the United States sees events in the Middle East as part of the following equation: They are the East, represented by Syria, and we are the West, represented by Israel, and the consolidation of U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation means that the United States is now directly confronting the Soviet side which the Americans consider to be the ally and supporter of Syria?

Answer: That is the prevailing impression at present. It certainly is the impression which the Israelis are trying hard to put about. This is the point we are examining at present in our endeavor to get an explanation of what has happened. If the United States really wants to be a mediator in the region, then it cannot be both an arbitrator and a party to the conflict at the same time. I believe that Israel is a strategic burden, not a strategic gain, to the United States. Saudi Arabia has always counseled against polarization in the region. We must not allow any side to turn our local problem into a problem between the superpowers. This is the basis of our reaction to the reports of strategic agreements between the United States and Israel.

Question: It seems that the United States has chosen its position and real partner in the region while still leaving the door open for participation in the negotiations. Do you not agree?

Answer: I believe — and this matter is still under consideration — that what has happened between the United States and Israel is a step into the unknown. I believe that many U.S. officials have, as the saying goes, "sobered up." Having seen Israel's reaction to, and exploitation of, what has happened, they are taking another look and are seeing facts in a different light. However, if the United States has really chosen Israel against all the Arabs, then it is a bad strategic choice and its consequences will, undoubtedly, not be positive.

Question: Pardon me, Your Highness, what consequences?

Answer: Let us see what circumstances and events develop in the future. We must not anticipate events.

Question: Should you conclude that the United States has indeed chosen Israel as its strategic partner in the region, what would the Saudi attitude be?

Answer: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to defend the Arab causes. It is a part of a whole. What the Arab nation unanimously agrees upon will apply to the Kingdom. The question is this: Is the U.S.-Israeli agreement directed against the Arabs and will it be used against the Arabs, or is it for domestic political reasons? We all know about politics and political moves. I do not want to venture into the unknown. This phase is crucial and perhaps the biggest service to the Arab nation, in relation to the United States, will be the Israeli attitude. I am personally quite sure that Israel will itself prove to the United States that it is an aggressive state which does not accept alliance with anyone and that it only uses everyone. In other words, its friendship is not friendship between allies. It is a friendship from above: Israel looks down on and exploits everyone it deals with.

Question: However, despite its aggression, Israel has so far managed to get everything it wanted from the United States.

Answer: I believe that is due to the lack of a minimum degree of Arab solidarity.

Foreign Minister Returns From Damascus Meeting

LD182050 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh 18 December — His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this evening returned to Riyadh from Damascus after taking part in the tripartite meeting held today between his highness and the foreign ministers of Syria and Lebanon.

Following the meeting his highness said in a press statement that the tripartite meeting will meet again at the beginning of January. His highness described the discussions as very positive with regard to all aspects of the Lebanese problems with a view to finding a suitable venue for the next Lebanese reconciliation meeting.

King Fahd Receives U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld 19 Dec

LD190918 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0858 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Dec (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received the U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, Donald Rumsfeld, at the royal court today. The envoy arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening within the framework of a tour of the area's countries. The audience was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

UAE

Moroccan Envoy Delivers Message to Zayid

LD191107 Kuwait KUNA in English 1025 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 19 (KUNA) — Visiting Moroccan Minister of State M'hamed Boucetta delivered here Monday a message from Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II to United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Boucetta told newsmen the message comes in the framework of exchanging points of view on Arab and Islamic issues that concern the two countries.

He added that the message also deals with intensive consultations taking place between Morocco and other countries before holding the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca on January 15.

The conference is to discuss the current Islamic and Arab situation, the Moroccan official said.

The one-day official visit is part of Boucetta's tour to several states in the region to deliver similar messages to their leaders from King Hassan II.

Boucetta arrived here Sunday night from Saudi Arabia, after talks with Saudi Monarch King Fahd.

Reportage on U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld's Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC181057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA) — Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's envoy to the Middle East, arrived in Cairo this morning for a few hours visit. President Husni Mubarak will receive the U.S. envoy at a later time. Rumsfeld will brief the president on the U.S. stand on the Lebanese crisis and the recent developments, as well as the U.S. viewpoint on the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation plan. Following the meeting with President Mubarak, the U.S. envoy is scheduled to leave Cairo this afternoon to complete his tour in Damascus and Tel Aviv.

Meets Mubarak

NC181551 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Mr Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. special envoy to the Middle East. The 2-hour meeting was attended by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the U.S. ambassador to Cairo.

Following the meeting, President Mubarak told newsmen: Our contacts are continuing with the United States. Furthermore, we exchange letters to explain the present situation and to express our opinion on all aspects for the benefit of the area.

The president said: President Reagan's personal envoy briefed me on the results of his trip to the area, and I will send President Reagan a letter in this respect.

With regard to the next step that the Palestinians must take, he said: We encourage the Palestinians to initiate a dialogue with Jordan to achieve a final settlement of the Palestinian issue. The president added: We have held contacts with many states, including the United States and Arab and non-Arab states, concerning the present situation in Tripoli. However, there currently is no plan for a meeting with President Reagan.

The president said: We obtained some safeguards some time ago for the Palestinians'exit from Tripoli. We continue to exert efforts in many directions — perhaps we will find a solution to the issue, despite its deterioration. We still subscribe to the view that it is an erroneous principle for the Palestinians to exit without first having found a solution to the Palestinian issue— and the coming days will prove the soundness of this opinion.

SFRY Foreign Secretary Arrives in Cairo

NC190736 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will receive Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, who arrived in Cairo early today for a 2-day visit. Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din will meet this evening with the Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs.

Talks are scheduled to open before noon today at the Foreign Ministry between Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Yugoslav federal secretary. The talks will center on the situation in the Middle East and on the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the achievement of international peace and security. A discussion will also take place on the strengthening of Egyptian-Yugoslav relations in various fields.

The Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs has lauded the existing deep relations between his country and Egypt as well as the development of their economic relations on the basis of joint interests and complementarity.

The Yugoslav secretary praised the efforts of Egypt, Yugoslavia, and India in strengthening the Nonaligned Movement. The Yugoslav secretary also explained that his visit to Egypt aims at exchanging views in connection with the duties of the nonaligned states. He said that the continuation of Israel's aggressive acts and the fact that some principal parties to the crisis do not desire to achieve a solution for it — in addition to the failure of the international community to end these practices — have led to a serious deterioration in the Middle East.

The Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs has demanded that all the parties concerned and the United Nations double their efforts to preclude a weakening of the efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis in generaland a solution to the Palestinian problem in particular.

Meets Mubarak

NC190838 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him at Al-Qubbah Palace. They arrived in Cairo early today for an official 4-day visit.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Yugoslav Ambassador to Egypt Lazar Zivulj also were in attendance.

Reportage on Foreign Minister 'Ali's U.S. Visit

To Meet Reagan

NC182148 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will leave Cairo tomorrow morning for a few day's visit to Washington. Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that he will hand U.S. President Ronald Reagan a letter from President Husni Mubarak durimg the visit which will reply to the letter the U.S. President sent today. 'Ali added that he will hold talks with U.S. Government officials on developments in the Middle East and Lebanese situations, and on the efforts exerted by the United States to achieve a comprehensive solution. 'Ali will also clarify Egypt's stance on the developments that the area is experiencing.

AL-AHRAM on Mubarak Letter

NC190820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0742 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA) — *AL-AHRAM* reports that Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will take a letter with him on his urgent mission to the United States — a mission which President Husni Mubarak entrusted to him. The letter contains President Mubarak's specific vision of the ways and means of, and the direction leading to, a solution of the Middle East issue — particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese issues — as well as Egypt's visualization on the way to return the region's situation to normal.

AL-AHRAM expects Kamal Hasan 'Ali's 4-day U.S. visit to be confined to Washington and to meetings with President Reagan and a number of State Department and Pentagon officials.

The paper says the tasks President Mubarak entrusted to Kamal Hasan 'Ali include discussion of several important topics connected with the two countries' relations.

It should be noted that President Mubarak's letter, which will be delivered by Kamal Hasan 'Ali in the course of his contacts, comes in reply to the letter President Reagan sent President Mubarak last Saturday. President Reagan's letter contains clarifications of U.S. Middle East policy and of Washington's commitment to intensify its efforts for peace and to work with all the parties to fulfill this objective.

Mubarak, Political Group Discuss Middle East

Defense Minister on U.S. Policy

NC181116 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this morning with the political group to discuss the deteriorating Middle East situation and the contacts which Egypt can conduct with major powers and several Arab countries in order to contain the situation and restore normality to the area.

The meeting was held at the presidential palace and attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah; Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Foreign Affairs.

Following a 1 and 3/4 hour meeting, Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said that the U.S. military aid, which amounts to $1.1 billion, has been as a grant, and thusneed not be repaid. However, this grant does not cover all the expenses estimated at $1.3 billion due to inflation and price rises. Abu Ghazalah noted that this subject will be discussed pending the receipt of an official letter in this regard. The subject will also be raised with the U.S. Administration. Regarding the U.S.-Israeli agreement, Abu Ghazalah said that we are still evaluating what is taking place, adding that Egypt enjoys good relations with the United States. Asked whether this agreement entitles Israel to participate in the "Bright Star" maneuvers, Abu Ghazalah said that the maneuvers between Egypt and any other foreign country is a matter which concerns only the two countries; third parties are not involved. He added that the only maneuvers that take place in Egypt are those which are politically acceptable and militarily useful.

Further on Meeting

NC181444 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Dr Usmah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and Presidential Office director for political affairs, made a statement after the meeting. He said: We had the opportunity to assess current events taking place in connection with the Israeli-U.S. strategic agreement, although we have not yet reached and final conclusions or specific ideas. Therefore, we will intensify consultations with the United States in the hope of achieving more specific ideas.

Dr al-Baz added: President Mubarak's previous statement that this agreement is regarded as a calamity is still valid. If reports on this agreement are accurate, then, undoubtedly, it will impede the peace process in the area.

He added: There has been an exchange of letters between Presidents Mubarak and Reagan. President Mubarak recently received a letter from Reagan containing a more specific and accurate explanation of U.S. policy. This letter requires further consultation, which the president will continue with President Reagan in the coming days.

Answering a question on Egypt's reception of Yasir 'Arafat, Dr al-Baz said: Egypt is an Arab country; therefore, it welcomes any Arab brother.

With regard to the steps that the Palestinians must take, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: It is imperative that the Palestinians specify this step and draw a specific policy line within the coming months. Furthermore, cooperation between the Palestinians and Jordan is vital for the success of the peace efforts. We encourage this move and insist that it continue. However, it is imperative that Israel, the United States, and the parties concerned — including Jordan and the Palestinians activate the peace process in the area.

'Ali Addresses Parliamentary Committees

NC182041 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali has announced that Egypt follows with immense concern the new developments that have occurred in the Lebanese situation, because the signs of clashes have appeared among external parties — clashes that threaten the Lebanese situation with further tension. He said: Egypt asks all these parties to exercise self-restraint and to abstain from exacerbating the situation. Futhermore, Egypt expects the Lebanese parties not to attach themselves to foreign interests, and the settlement of the Lebanese issue must be achieved through the withdrawal of all foreign forces and through national conciliation.

In the statement that he has made to the joint meeting of the Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committees of the People's Assembly, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The Israeli stance taken in the course of the autonomy negotiations, the erroneous intepretations of the concept of autonomy, and the continuing arbitrary Israeli practices in the West Bank and in Gaza — practices that Egypt condemns — have discuouraged the Arab parties concerned and have induced them not to participate in these negotiations.

He emphasized that Egypt's commitment to the Palestinian cause is one of consistency and destiny, and that Egypt supports Palestinian legitimacy. 'Ali said: The Palestinian position now requires reflection over all that has happened, so that Palestinian action will proceed into the future from a realistic premise. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is necessary, and achievement of this coordination tends to face each with their responsibilities. On its part, Egypt stands prepared to extend all the support that is asked of it in this direction. Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: The Egyptian ambassador's return to Israel is contingent on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon under a timetable of guaranteed implementation, on the activation of the bilateral topics pending between the two countries, and on creating a propitious atmosphere for progress in the resolution of the Palestinian issue. He said: Egypt wants Egyptian-Israeli relations to pursue their natural course.

With regard to Egypt's relationship with the United States, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: This relationship is twofold. The first part encompasses the political, economic, and military relations. The second part is related to the U.S. role in the peace process.

In respect to bilateral relations, Egypt has asked the United States to convert the military loans into grants that do not have to be repaid, to earmark part of the economic aid in cash, and to participate in the priorities of the 5-year plan. With regard to the U.S. role in the peacemaking process, Egypt has adhered to the need for the U.S. efforts to govern the U.S. commitment to President Reagan's initiative, including this initiative's stipulation on the freezing of the settlements. Egypt has also adhered to the need for Security Council Resolution 242 applying to all the fronts.

Concerning the U.S.-Israeli cooperation agreement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The source of concern in connection with this decision [to sign the agreement] stems from Egypt's outlook and its realization that this decision might leave its mark on the Middle East peace process. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt continues to follow the new development that has occurred in the Israeli-U.S. relationship and to study all its dimensions and repercussions in the area. Furthermore, Egypt will follow the coming meetings of the joint Israeli-U.S. committee. Egypt will also continue to contact the United States to buttress the U.S.-Arab relationship and to seek to generate momentum for the peace process in the Middle East.

With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt has exerted its efforts to urge the two conflicting parties to iron out their differences. He said: Egypt will continue to back Iraq's defensive capabilities and to enable Iraq to defend its territory. About the Egyptian-Arab relations, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt is in touch with most of the Arab states. Furthermore, Egypt's relations with Iraq, Jordan, and Morocco have witnessed a noticeable improvement. However, and so far as Egypt's relations with Sudan are concerned, these relations are gaining daily in strength.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt has dedicatedly bolstered its relations with The European states. Furthermore, Egypt has continued its relations with the states of the socialist camp during this year, which has witnessed positive steps taken in the domain of trade relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union as a result of the trade protocol that was signed between the two countries this year. In concluding his statement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed his hope that the coming year will witness achievement of Arab solidarity, that Egypt's relations with the states of the whole world will deepen, that the peace process will strengthen and will include new parties, and that legitimate rights will be restored to those who are entitled to these rights.

Mubarak Welcomes Meeting With 'Arafat in Cairo

NC181651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1614 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak answered a question about the (?extent) of his readiness to meet Mr Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. He said that he welcomes meeting Mr 'Arafat at any time should Mr 'Arafat want this.

Palestinian Wounded Arrive in Cairo for Treatment

NC181446 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1436 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA) — A group of 73 wounded Palestinian fighters arrived this afternoon in Cairo from (?Cyprus) for treatment in Egyptian hospitals. The group arrived aboard two Egyptian military aircraft.

'Senior' Official Declines Israeli Invitation

NC171721 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, Dec 17 (AFP) — A senior Foreign Ministry official has declined an invitation to visit Israel, the Egyptian magazine *OCTOBER* reported today, in what was viewed here as a new sign of deterioration in Egyptian-Israeli relations. *OCTOBER* said that Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, an assistant to Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, had declined an invitation from Moshe Sason, the Israeli ambassador to Egypt.

Mr Sason had asked Mr 'Abd al-Hamid for an "urgent meeting" to extend the invitation, the magazine said, after the general secretary of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, had paid a visit on November 9 to ask that an Egyptian ministry representative come to Israel to "pursue bilateral dialogue." That dialogue was interrupted in September 1982, to protest the Israeli invasion of Lebanon the previous June. Analysts noted that the reported rejection came as Egyptian-Israeli ties were at their lowest ebb since embassies were opened in February, 1980.

Bomb Hurled at Israeli Consulate Vehicle

NC171719 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] In the first incident of the kind in Egypt, a youth hurled a Molotov bomb this afternoon at a vehicle belonging to the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria. The Israeli consul said he cannot term what happened as an attack. He said the Egyptian police arrested the youth for questioning. The incident comes in the wake of reports that members of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Tel Aviv were recently subjected to having their homes and vehicles searched.

OCTOBER Reports Threats Against Tel Aviv Embassy

NC172051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Egypt has complained to Israel that its embassy in Tel Aviv has been subjected to telephone and written threats by unknown persons. The Egyptian *OCTOBER* magazine says the Egyptian Embassy and its property in Tel Aviv were recently exposed to attacks and thefts. The magazine confirmed that several telephone calls were made threatening to blow up embassy employees' vehicles.

Government, Morocco Coordinating on Conference

GF180740 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 18 Dec (WAKH) — Press reports said here today that urgent contacts were held between Cairo and Rabat recently to coordinate between the two capitals on Egypt's official participation in the Islamic foreign ministers and summit conferences scheduled to convene in Morocco in January. Reporting from Cairo, the newspaper *AR-RAYAH* said it has become certain that an official invitation will be extended to Egypt to participate in the two conferences after Morocco has studied the views of a great number of Islamic countries which welcomed Egypt regaining its important role. *AR-RAYAH* said this issue was the topic of discussion during the visit which Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, made to Morocco last month.

Minister Previews Economic Talks in Jordan

JN181111 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Dec 83 p 19

[Interview with Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, by Hidayat 'Abd an-Nabi in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: What is the aim of your visit to Jordan next Tuesday?

Mustafa as-Sa'id: My visit to Jordan will be within Egypt's moves on the Arab level, and within the political contacts which have been held with the heads of state of many Arab countries, particularly with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. It is imperative that these political contacts be coupled with the promotion of various aspects of economic relations, not only to restore these relations to where they were before the Arab boycott, but to reach a level commensurate with the rate of growth achieved by both Egypt and the Arab countries, and with the developments that have been accompanying this growth since 1978.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: During your visit to Iraq, you conveyed a message from President Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn. You also met with President Mubarak twice before your departure for Amman. Do you have a message to convey to Jordan's King Husayn from President Mubarak?

As-Sa'id: I discussed my forthcoming visit to Jordan with the president who entrusted me to convey a message to King Husayn of Jordan.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: It is rumored that your visit to Jordan has been postponed several times because of obstacles to signing a trade agreement. It is said that these obstacles were placed by the Egyptian side. Is that so?

As-Sa'id: The postponement of the visit was not connected with problems in the trade and economic agreement or the Egyptian-Jordanian relations. The postponement was due to the simple reason that both the Egyptian and Jordanian sides had several engagements which delayed the visit until a date — 20 December — could be fixed.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Can you shed some light on Egypt's economic relations with some of the Arab countries?

As-Sa'id: In terms of the trade exchanges between us and the Arab states, Saudi Arabia comes first, followed by Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan. Sudan, of course, has special status in terms of the two countries' integration. Despite the improvement in the trade exchanges between us and a number of Arab states over the past year, the scope for further cooperation in this field remains very wide which necessitates concerted efforts in this field.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: I have two related questions: the first concerning the issue of the U.S. Export-Import Bank which was raised over financing the Egyptian nuclear reactors' deals; and the second is how will the Arab world benefit from the Egyptian nuclear reactors in the field of power generation?

As-Sa'id: The problem is very simple. We have a nuclear program to build 10 nuclear stations over the next 20 years. We entered into negotiations with France and other states. We called for building the first two stations in international tenders. Major states and international establishments, which work in the field of nuclear reactors, entered the bidding. Among them was the American Westinghouse company which approached the Export-Import Bank of the United States and asked it to finance the deal if Westinghouse won the bidding. The bank studied the company's request and rejected it under the pretext that it has no clear, detailed studies on this project. The bank then sent its decision to other central banks in Europe. This issue does not concern us directly. It is connected with contacts between a U.S. bank and a U.S. company. Of course we considered the bank's action in informing other banks about its decision to be an attempt to weaken the chances for financing the project by European banks,in case some European companies decide to enter the bidding. Accordingly, we contacted the bank and voiced our objection to the way in which the bank has tackled this issue. The president of the bank sent a letter to the Egyptian Government explaining the bank's views and saying that the bank's decision has nothing to do with the Egyptian Government's financial position. At the same time, the bank showed readiness to finance other Egyptian Government projects. Actually, the bank financed a deal for the purchase of Boeing aircraft, and expressed readiness to finance cement factories and other projects. This was to show that its decision was not aimed at harming the Egyptian Government at all.

What is more important is that the bids for these two reactors were opened in November 1982 and that four offers were received: Westinghouse, Bechtel, a French group, and a German-Swedish group. This shows that the world states, particularly those which are advanced in nuclear technology, are interested in the Egyptian nuclear program.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Canada was interested in supplying Egypt with the nuclear reactors, so why didn't Canadian companies enter the bidding?

As-Sa'id: It is known that agreements are reached among international companies. For example, the tenders presented by the Westinghouse or the Bechtel companies may include a kind of consortium between one of these two companies and another group of companies in Canada or elsewhere. What happens is that government or non-governmental companies which enter the bidding are financially supported by various financial establishments inside or outside their countries.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: It has been said that the U.S. Export-Import Bank's stand was the result of pressure by the Zionist lobby in the United States. Has this any sound basis?

As-Sa'id: We do not have any information about this, but the assertions made by the bank's president explained that the bank's decision was based on a lack of sufficient studies that were to be reviewed by the bank's board of directors so that the Westinghouse Company could achieve the board's approval. The bank asked the company to present sufficient studies. The company's decision to enter the last bidding asserts that the bank's stand was not at all as some parties tried to explain. The newspapers wanted to create an issue out of this, but we do not see any problem at all. The evidence is that tenders were presented by various sides — Westinghouse, Bechtel, and European companies. This shows that the U.S. financial establishments are ready to finance this project.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What about the second part of the question?

As-Sa'id: Egypt will be the first Arab country that will use nuclear energy to produce electrical power. This will create a new Egyptian generation that will be capable of understanding modern technology and running and maintaining these stations. The Arab world will benefit from this Egyptian experience when such projects are set up. This cooperation is not confined to nuclear technology. This cooperation took place in the past in many spheres of cooperation between Egypt and the Arab world.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What about Egyptian-Soviet economic relations?

As-Sa'id: The economic relations are normal, continuing, and were not severed. Our economic relations with the USSR are governed by a trade and payment agreement which is still effective and was never stopped.

We negotiate it one time in Cairo and another time in Moscow.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What about Egypt's economic relations with Israel?

As-Sa'id: Our relations with Israel are not different from our relations with any other country in the world. They are governed by the requirements of the Egyptian economy and by the rules that are applied in the Egyptian economy with regard to trade and cooperation with any country in the world. Therefore, we cannot say that Israel takes a special preference.

We also cannot say that there is any discrimination against Israel. A look at Israel's exports shows that Israel cannot export much to the Egyptian economy, because most of Israel's exports are agricultural, inlucing fruits and vegetables, as well as diamonds, some military exports, and some chemical meterials.

Regarding agricultural and food exports, Egypt does not need them. Concerning the industrial exports, we find that Israel is not the best in producing industrial commodities, including machinery, equipment, and raw material. Therefore, Egyptian importers prefer to import these commodities from other countries.

We do not import arms and diamonds from Israel. As a result, trade between us and Israel is small and weak.

Weapons in Production Cover Domestic Needs

NC171510 Cairo MENA in English 1405 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 17 (MENA) — Minister of State for Military Production Dr Jamal ad-Din said the Egyptian plants are now producing various kinds of ammunition and light weapons to cover needs of the domestic market and achieve a surplus for exportation.

Dr Jamal ad-Din said species of the 23 mm anti-aircraft machine gun were produced and small quantities of it will be produced within the coming few months to cover the required needs of the Armed Forces.

Jamal ad-Din told MENA that species [as received] of the 123 and 130 mm guns were produced in Egypt as well. The Eastern tanks are currently developed in Egypt through Western expertise. All military products will be shown at the international exhibition to be staged late next year under the supervision of the Ministries of Defence and Military Production.

AL-AHRAM on Israeli Policy, U.S. Connection

NC170744 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] In its article entitled "New Records for Israeli Condemnation," *AL-AHRAM* says that Israel managed to make new records regarding the number of condemnations it accumulated during 1 day of the UN General Assembly meeting. The Assembly passed 10 resolutions condemning Israel's policy in the occupied territories and its practices in the West Bank. Israel was also condemned for digging a canal linking the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea through the occupied Gaza Strip, under the pretext of generating electricity and energy, for refusing to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and for its rejection of the principle of international inspection.

The paper pointed out that these resolutions come at a time when Israel directs its artillery and rockets at the Palestinians and their positions while those Palestinians prepare to leave Tripoli for a diaspora and look for some other country to host them after Israel has dispossessed and expelled them from their land.

AL-AHRAM concludes by expressing its surprise that the United States could conduct talks with Israel and reach an agreement on principles governing cooperation with Israel at the same time that the international community condemns Israel's policies of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza and elsewhere. Israel is thereby forcing the United States to approve of its policies and stands rejected by the supporters of peace, the advocates of justice, and the believers in rights, equality, and security for all.

AL-AKHBAR Supports U.S. Reprisal for Explosions

NC180714 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AKHBAR* writes on the blasts in Kuwait and about possible retaliation saying that the news agencies have reported that Kuwait and Washington are continuing the search for those who carried out the blasts which swept Kuwait and who are still threatening to carry out more attacks. Meanwhile, Washington has announced that it will retaliate against those who carried out the blasts. The U.S. President has threatened over and over to retaliate against those who attacked the U.S. positions in Kuwait, Lebanon, and elsewhere. The paper wonders if a reprisal can be reasonably carried out while we still do not know who the criminal elements are. We are not sure of their nationality. The paper says that it would be a great mistake if Washington should mount a reprisal based on guesswork, hunches, and fingerprints. We might later on find that such a reprisal was misdirected.

Concluding its article, *AL-AKHBAR* says that retaliation is necessary; it is the only measure capable of terminating those impetuous acts. We should not tolerate such acts. However, retaliation should be well-directed and punishment should befall the culprits. This is the course of action suitable for officials in Kuwait and Washington while they are trying to identify the perpetrators and those who support them so they can procure booby-trapped cars and other means of destruction and subversion.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,312

JN161651 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA) — An Armed Forces General Command communique issued here tonight says that the Iraqi forces destroyed four infantry positions and two observation posts during operations at the front last night and today. Communique No 1,312 also says that the Iraqi forces killed one Iranian in the northern sector of the front, and captured a quantity of various weapons and military hardware in the same sector. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,312 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As they celebrate the birthday of the great Arab, Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, our valiant Armed Forces are affirming their adherence to their rights and principles, and their determination to confront the unjust Khomeyniite aggression and realize victory over the covetous aggressors. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our combat patrol units attacked a number of enemy excavators opposite one of our forward units' positions in the areas east of Basra today, scoring direct hits. Enemy soldiers were heard shouting for help. In another area of the same sector, an enemy infantry position was destroyed and those manning it were killed.

2. Our forward units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and troops opposite their positions in the central sector of the front, destroying three infantry positions and one observation post.

3. One of our forward units used various kinds of weapons to fire at an enemy patrol opposite our forward positions in the northern sector of the front and forced the patrol members to flee. In another area of the same sector, our forces killed one enemy soldier, destroyed one observation post, and captured a quantity of various weapons and military hardware.

4. Continuing its hostile policy of shelling our border towns, the criminal Khomeyniite clique ruling in Iran shelled Mandali and its suburbs with heavy artillery today, damaging civilian establishments and property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 December 1983.

Communique No 1,313

JN171640 Bahgdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — During the past 24 hours, the Iraqi forces killed eight Iranians, wounded others, and destroyed military equipment, hardware stockpiles, and infantry positions in the operational sectors. Stating this tonight, a military communique issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command added that Iranian artillery today shelled the border town of Mandali, damaging some civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,313 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the aggressor Iranian regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our foward units pounded the enemy positions opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment and destroying five infantry positions.

2. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions east of Basra, killing four and destroying one machinegun emplacement and two hardware stockpiles.

3. Our forward units engaged enemy targets in the central sector of the battlefield with artillery, killing two and destroying one infantry position.

4. One of our forward units opened fire on several enemy troops in the Maysan sector, killing two and wounding others.

5. Today the evil Khomeyniite regime shelled Mandali and its environs with artillery, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 December 1983

Communique No 1,314

JN181641 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA) — Iraqi armed units have pounded several Iranian troop concentrations in the northern, central, and southern sectors of operations, inflicting on them losses in life and equipment. Eight were killed, many wounded, one vehicle and two infantry positions destroyed, and quantities of weapons captured.

This was stated in military Communique No 1,314 issued here this evening. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,314 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Enjoying high morale, the valiant Iraqis continue their triumphant activities in the sectors of operations against the aggressor Iranian forces. The results yesterday and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units sighted an enemy troop concentration opposite its positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our forward unit shelled it, hitting five and forcing the rest to flee.

One enemy vehicle was destroyed in another area in the same sector and flames were seen billowing from it.

2. A force belonging to our forward units pounded an enemy force which tried to approach our forward positions in the Maysan sector, killing two, forcing the other to flee, and capturing military hardware.

3. Our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite their positions east of Basra with all types of weapons, killing one, wounding many, and destroying one infantry position.

4. One infantry position was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 December 1983

AFP: KDP Kidnaps 3 More Foreign Workers

OW171857 Hong Kong AFP in English 1846 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17 (AFP) — Another three foreign workers in Iraq were kidnapped by the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), a few days after the December 2 abduction of three French nationals there, it was learnt here today.

In an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Idriss Barzani, a member of the KDP Politburo, said members of his party had kidnapped an Italian, an Egyptian and a Thai.

Mr Barzani, who is the son of Mullah Mustafa Barzani, said that he could only reveal the identity of the Egyptian, which he gave as "Sa'id".

The abduction was being treated as a separate case from the disappearance of the three French technicians, and conditions for their release had not yet been fixed, he said.

But the KDP had softened its demands for the release of the French workers, who were employed in Iraq by the Thomson Industrial Group, Mr Barzani said.

They would be freed if Iraq provided details on the 8,000 Iraqi Kurds who were allegedly uprooted from their homes in August, if their families were allowed to join them and if those who "had not committed any crime" were given their freedom, he said.

The KDP had previously demanded the release of 57 KDP members who were reportedly facing the death sentence in Iraq.

Briefs

Outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador — Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has received 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abdallah as-Sar'wai, Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad, on the occasion of the expiration of his term. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and the means of bolstering them to serve the higher interest of the Arab nation. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Dec JN]

Husayn Leaves Strasbourg, Arrives in London

JN161916 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in London this afternoon on a private visit to the United Kingdom. During the visit, the king will hold talks with British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher.

His Majesty King Husayn left Strasbourg this afternoon after addressing the European Parliament yesterday. His speech touched on recent developments in the current Middle East situation and obstacles to achieving peace in the region. He called on Europe to play a positive role in alleviating the superpower confrontation.

Meeting With Thatcher

JN162134 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn held talks with British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher this evening. The 70-minute talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral issues.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on U.S. Policy Toward Arabs

JN170815 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Three Issues," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says:

In his address to the European Parliament, His Majesty King Husayn mentioned the following three main reasons that led to the failure of peace efforts in the region: U.S. reluctance to shoulder its responsibilities, Israel's rejection of international consensus, and the absence of Arab accord.

The fact is that had it not been for U.S. reluctance in shouldering its responsibilities as a superpower, and as a permanant member at the UN Security Council, in addition to ignoringits commitments to world peace, security, and the UN Charter, Israel's rejection of international consensus would not have been effective. In the invasion of Lebanon and in many similar situations, the United States used the veto, which is considered a way out for the superpowers, instead of resorting to arms, when they see a great threat to their interests. But the United States has always used this veto to protect the Israeli aggression and its objectives. Had it not been for unlimited U.S. support, Israel would not have been able to carry out aggressions and continue its occupation with its own human and economic potentials.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: The United States is the one that has interests in our Arab homeland. Yet, for a reason that surprises all thinkers and politicians who are interested in what is taking place in the region, we are the ones who exert all efforts to preserve our relations with the United States — even to the extent that during his recent visit to some Arab countries, the U.S. secretary of state said frankly that this is U.S. policy toward Israel whether the Arabs like it or not. And we do not hear any official protest against this statement.

The disarray in Arab ranks has a double effect on our nation as we are facing existing aggression and imminent dangers. This Arab disarray has attracted all the forces that have ambitions in our homeland and encouraged them to continue their hostile schemes. The current state of affairs has become a reason for entrenching current regional isolations and for preventing pan-Arab trends to confront this situation.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: If the Arab League Charter is incapable of producing the right formula for mobilizing Arab potentials to confront the challenges, and if old divisions have obstructed pan-Arab moves, the fact remains that pressure on the Arabs is stronger than an Arab awakening. However, nobody can deny the existence of an upsurge in Arab awakening; what is needed is somebody to sponsor and remove the local obstalces from their path.

AR-RA'Y: U.S. Responsible for Tripoli Departure

JN180818 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Beware Naval Terrorism," *AR-RA'Y* says: Five Greek ships flying the UN flag are expected to arrive in Tripoli tomorrow, and then the departure of the Palestinian fighters besieged there will immediately begin.

Although the French warships will protect the Greek ships on their way to the Lebanese port and during their voyage to Algeria and Aden, we must point out that the honorable French measures will not absolve the U.S. Administration of its international and ethical responsibility to safeguard the ships and their passengers. This U.S. responsibility stems from the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, on whose basis the United States agreed to be a partner of Israel's in its practices, including advanced consultations and coordination between the two sides.

Since Israel has announced many times that it intends to take action against the naval convoy, and since such dangerous action cannot be implemented without consultation and coordination with the U.S. partner, the United States cannot claim neutrality and irresponsibility toward the Israeli threats and the dangers that will surround the Palestinian fighters' departure.

The U.S. Administration must understand that any Israeli action against the five ships flying the UN flag will be considered a direct U.S. aggression against the international organization. Such an action may be a prelude to the appearance of naval terrorism that will threaten civilian navigation which has been kept away from violence.

AR-RA'Y continues: In any case, White House spokesman Larry Speakes' statement that the United States hopes the Palestinian fighters will depart without obstacles is not enough. Such a desire does not represent a pledge to guarantee the safety of those who will depart. Hence, the United States will remain responsible until the departure is implemented safely.

AR-RA'Y concludes: Our region is charged with elements of conflagration. It is no secret that any adventure against the ships carrying the Palestinian fighters may lead to the major conflagration about which we have always cautioned. The U.S. Administration will be mistaken if it thinks that it can control such a conflagration or its consequences. This administration must realize that the Arabs and the world hold it fully responsible for the safety of the ships and their passengers.

Bahraini Heir Apparent Leaves for Home

JN181650 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — Crown Prince Hasan saw off his guest Bahraini Heir Apparent His Highness Shaykh Hamd ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah at Amman airport this morning. The Bahraini heir apparent left for his country after a visit of several days to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and acquainted himslef with a number of cultural and tourist sites in the kingdom.

Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, Chief Justice Ibrahim al-Qattan, the Bahraini ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior officials also bade farewell to the guest.

RFL Reports Druze Losses From U.S. Shelling

NC170719 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Reliable sources have disclosed that about 27 Junblatt gunmen were killed and 70 wounded as a result of the U.S. unit's retaliation for the attacks to which it was subjected the day before yesterday, a retaliation in which the *New Jersey* participated.

Two U.S. 'Warships' Shell Syrian Positions

NC181154 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] At 1320 today, two U.S. warships, one bearing the number 19 and the other 47, shelled Syrian positions in Baysur, after the Syrians opened antiaircraft fire on U.S. aircraft overflying the area. The shelling continued intermittently for 10 minutes.

VOL Report on Shelling

NC181248 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Between 1320 and 1340 today, a U.S. warship anchored off the Lebanese coast shelled Syrian positions in the mountain, specifically in Al-Mughithi and Dahr al-Baydar. Initial information indicates that antiaircraft fire was opened on two U.S. aircraft that flew over the mountain. The naval shelling started 10 minutes later.

Israelis Withdraw From Ash-Shuf, Al-Kharrub

NC170623 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the Israeli forces have evacuated all their newly established positions in the Al-Kharrub region and Ash-Shuf. These positions include those established in As-Sa'diyat, Tallat Junblatt in Sablin, Ad-Dubbiyah, Ad-Dalhamiyah, and Tallat az-Zarut in Al-Jiyah. Convoys of the withdrawing Israeli forces have been seen crossing Al-Awwali Bridge via the coastal road.

Rocket Attack Launched at Israeli Patrol in Sidon

NC181118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1103 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Reports received from Sidon a few minutes ago indicate that unidentified persons launched a rocket attack at 1215 today on Sidon's main street at an Israeli patrol near An-Najmah Square and that one of the rockets hit an Israeli military vehicle. The reports indicated that three Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded. The reports further indicate that the Israeli forces opened fire immediately killing one Lebanese civilian and wounding three others, and cut off the Beirut-Sidon road and (?detained) scores of persons who were in the street at the time.

AFP Report on Attack

NC181433 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Dec 18 (AFP) — Three Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded today in the center of this southern town when their patrol was hit by rocket fire, according to correspondents here. They added that a civilian was killed and three wounded when the patrol responded by opening fire. (In Tel Aviv, a military spokesman said a grenade attack on a military vehicle outside of Sidon had killed a Lebanese bystander and wounded two soldiers. He made no mention of Israeli gunfire. He gave no further information, and it was not immediately clear whether he was referring to the same attack as the correspondents.) The correspondents quoted witnesses to the attack inside Sidon as saying that the Israelis also had arrested several dozen passersby. They said a rocket had apparently hit an Israeli jeep.

Lebanese Soldier Killed

NC181442 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sidon has reported that a big explosion was heard in the city at noon today. The explosion was directed at an Israeli military convoy passing near the Al-Bisat pharmacy on the main Riyad as-Sulh Street. The correspondent said that the Israeli forces immediately sealed off the approaches to the city, stopped traffic, closed shops and commercial institutions, and launched a wide-scale search. The Israeli forces also opened fire in every direction killing Lebanese Army soldier 'Ammar Khalil Qaswan who was wearing civilian clothes, and not the civilian Muhammad Safwan, as reported earlier. Five other Lebanese civilians were also wounded. The agency correspondent also said that an Israeli military helicopter was seen moving three Israeli wounded to an Israeli Army position in Az-Zahrani. The commander of the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon inspected the area of the incident and supervised the evacuation of the casualties.

Israeli Warplanes Attack Tripoli Port 18 Dec

NC181743 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1740 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] We have just learned that Israeli warplanes strafed Tripoli Port at 1930 today.

Israeli Aircraft Strafe 'Alayh, Bhamdun

NC190648 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0637 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] A security source has reported that at 0750 today, warplanes strafed the area of 'Alayh and Bhamdun and that they were confronted with ground resistance. The warplanes strafed the same areas at 0800. An Israeli military spokesman admitted a short while ago that Israeli aircraft bombed areas in Bhamdun, hit the targets, and returned safely to base. In addition, Israeli aircraft have been seen overflying Sidon and Tyre since 0800.

Iranians Install Antiaircraft Guns in Al-Biqa'

NC171556 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' reports that Iranian Revolution Guards have installed antiaircraft guns near some houses around An-Nabi Shit, and that some houses have been turned into weapons and ammunition warehouses. Our correspondent also reports that the Iranian gunmen in Ba'labakk are in a state of alert. The correspondent says a clash took place yesterday between the Syrian special units and Palestinian dissidents in the Ta'labayya area. The clash lasted approximately 30 minutes and it was the result of tension between the two sides.

Reportage on Al-Jumayyil Visit to Libya

Official Sources Confirm Visit

NC161710 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1658 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today unexpectedly arrived in Tripoli on a visit to Libya at the invitation of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He received the invitation while in Morocco where last night and this morning he had talks with Morocco's King Hassan II. President al-Jumayyil was accompanied to Tripoli by the personal political adviser of King Hassan II. President al-Jumayyil will leave the Libyan capital for an undisclosed destination, after holding quick consultations with Al-Qadhdhafi. This report has been confirmed by official sources.

Al-Jumayyil Leaves After Talks

NC162116 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil left the Libyan capital tonight after a lengthy meeting he held with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi lasting from 1300 to 1800. A well-informed source described the meeting between the Lebanese president and Col al-Qadhdhafi as very positive and frank. It was decided to follow up the contacts and matters in a positive dialogue between Libya and Lebanon. President al-Jumayyil's visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah ended tonight. The president left the Libyan capital for an undisclosed destination, which might be Beirut or another place within the framework of the president's search for a solution leading to expedite a settlement of the Lebanese problem.

Al-Jumayyil Returns to Beirut

NC170928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0908 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] I have just been informed that President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived at the Presidential Palace in B'abda a short time ago at the conclusion of his trip to the Arab Maghreb and Libya during the past 48 hours. This tour followed the president's visit to Britain, where he held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The president also called on Queen Elizabeth. As we already know, President al-Jumayyil yesterday unexpectedly arrived in the Libyan capital, where he held a 5-hour talk with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He then left the Libyan capital for the Greek island of Rhodes, where the president spent the night. At dawn today, President al-Jumayyil left Rhodes aboard his private plane for Beirut and reached the Presidential Palace, as I have said, a short time ago.

Al-Wazzan on Visit

NC171510 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Today President Amin al-Jumayyil held a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in the presence of Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim to discuss the current situation. Prime Minister Al-Wazzan later said:

[Begin recording][Al-Wazzan] It was inevitable to meet with the president in the presence of the foreign minister to hear about the outcome of his talks and consultations, be they the scheduled talks or the unexpected talks, and particularly his visit to Libya.

The president's activity has assured us of achieving further understanding and support by the states he visited. His visit to fraternal Morocco has always been hoped for because fraternal Morocco has a high standing and because His Majesty King Hassan II has been adopting positive stands toward Lebanon, particularly in every crisis. The president's visit to Libya may have been at the wish of his majesty. The close relations between the fraternal countries, Morocco and Libya, have enabled his majesty to be aware of what is beneficial for Lebanon. President al-Jumayyil wished to benefit from this occasion and to respond to an official invitation extended to him. The visit he made is within the framework of the authoirty given to him by the Geneva National Dialogue Conference. The president and all of us are eager to bring about the departure of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, including the Libyan forces. The talks between President al-Jumayyil and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealt with the roots of the Lebanese crisis and all its ramifications. It was a useful round. It will inevitably be followed by a dialogue which will benefit Lebanon and will be in the interest of the comprehensive Arab cooperation which Lebanon has always been eager to safeguard.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, will it now be possible to unfreeze the relations between the two countries as a result of this visit?

[Al-Wazzan] You know that the reasons which led to freezing the relations still exist. However, the good efforts initiated by Morocco and to which the president responded constitutes an important step toward normalizing matters.

Lebanon has always been a friend of all and has sought the friendship of all — the brothers before others. Any progress in the areas discussed will restore the warmth to what has been frozen and will normalize matters.

[Reporter] Was the Libyan forces' withdrawal discussed?

[Al-Wazzan] This, we hope, will be included in a dialogue which will inevitably continue between the two countries.

[Reporter] At what level?

[Al-Wazzan] The level is not as important as the noble objective and mutual goal.

[Reporter] Do you expect the National Dialogue Conference to be held this coming week as reported?

[Al-Wazzan] The desire for convening a Geneva conference is being expressed by all parties, particularly by the government, because we are eager to restore stability to the homeland and to enable the Lebanese to live happily and reassured. However, efforts must be made to provide means for the success of any meeting or step. The current contacts are for ensuring the success of the expected steps. If the meeting is delayed 1 or more weeks so that it will be successful, then there is no objection to this.

[Reporter] Will it be by the beginning of the new year?

[Al-Wazzan] There is no commitment to any date. What is important is that contacts are seriously taking place with all those concerned.

[Reporter] Is there any new development at the level of the Security Arrangements Committee?

[Al-Wazzan] The results brought by the Security Arrangements Committee from Damascus yesterday have been witnessed in the field, including the reopening of the airport and soon the reopening of the schools. We must be optimistic despite all past experiences because the consolidation [of the cease-fire] will be final, God willing. [end recording]

Birri Criticizes Visit

NC171826 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Today, Amal leader Nabih Birri demanded a security [guarantee] involving the withdrawal of the Army to its barracks as a precondition for respecting the cease-fire. He strongly criticized the visit of President al-Jumayyil to Libya. With the second round of talks at Geneva ahead, Nabih Birri said that at round number one, the president was a partner in the talks and not a referee as proved by the existence of [word indistinct] table.

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Meeting on Damascus Talks

NC172117 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting tonight at the Presidential Palace attended by U.S. presidential envoy Rumsfeld; Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim; Presidential Adviser Dr Wadi' Haddad; and U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Bartholomew. The discussions dealt with the meeting which will be held in Damascus tomorrow and which will be attended by the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers. The conferees also discussed the results of President al-Jumayyil's Arab and European tour. Foreign Ministers Elie Salim, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal are due to meet in Damascus tomorrow to discuss the measures that will ensure the consolidation of the cease-fire and the convening of the second round of the Geneva conference. Minister Salim this afternoon met with Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri.

Foreign Minister Salim Visits Damascus 18 Dec

NC180722 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Dr Elie Salim, minister of foreign affairs and expatriates, left Beirut a short while ago for Damascus to attend the tripartite Lebanese-Syrian-Saudi meeting. During the meeting, which will be attended by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, an integrated security plan for Lebanon and the fixing of the date and venue for the second phase of the National Dialogue Conference will be discussed.

Returns From Talks

NC181856 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim returned to Beirut this evening from Damascus and immediately proceeded to the Presidential Palace in B'abda to present a comprehensive report on the results of the talks which were held in the Syrian capital today with his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Saudi Mediator 'Unexpectedly' Arrives in Beirut

NC170921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The cease-fire agreement that was reached in Damascus is still holding and all the parties are scrupulously observing the provisions of this agreement. A short while ago, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri unexpectedly arrived in Beirut on what he described as an inspection visit.

Beirut Report on Arrival

NC171750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The recent cease-fire agreement is not an objective, but is part of a more comprehensive plan, which is more important, which aims at achieving national reconciliation through a national unity government following the second round of the National Dialogue Conference. The Lebanese-Syrian-Saudi talks, which will be held in Damascus tomorrow, will discuss how to arrive at these goals in a manner to safeguard Lebanon's integrity and sovereignty. Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Beirut today, within the framework of the important contacts which Saudi Arabia is making, to ensure a formula that will lead to the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Presidential Adviser Dr Wadi' Haddad are due to meet tonight with U.S. presidential envoy Rumsfeld who has had talks in Israel with Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens.

'Limited' Cease-Fire Violations Reported

NC171032 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The security situation remained calm in light of the latest cease-fire agreement until this morning, when limited violations occurred. However, contacts are now underway to contain these violations. A security source said clashes occurred between the Army and gunmen in Qabr Shmun at 1105. Machineguns and 106-mm artillery were used in these clashes. Furthermore, 81-mm shells have fallen on the Army positions in 'Ayn as-Sayyidah. These shells originated east of the Al-Qusur area in 'Alayh.

Shelling of French Forces Violates Cease-Fire

NC171800 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Despite the limited violations of the cease-fire, the cease-fire agreement can still be regarded as holding. There were no significant violations of the cease-fire along the traditional axes, but there were limited clashes between the Army and armed men in Qabr Shmun. The French forces' positions in Shatila in Beirut came under artillery fire this afternoon. During the morning clashes, machineguns and 106-mm caliber shells were used; 81-mm caliber mortars landed at an Army post in 'Ayn as-Sayyidah. The source of the mortars is the Al-Qusur area in 'Alayh. Sniper fire was also reported between As'ad al-As'ad and Sannin Streets and it stopped after contacts were held. In the afternoon, the French forces' positions in the Shatila area came under artillery shelling from the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Officials Discuss Kidnapped, Missing Persons Issue

NC171943 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee did not meet today because its members have been preoccupied with tackling the issue of kidnapped persons. Within this framework, Staff Colonel Jean Nasif, the Army representative on the committee, held intensive contacts with the committee members to deal with the issue of kidnapped and missing persons in order to find a solution to this quetion through the Red Cross. Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri today met with the Dar al-Fatwa Committee which is following up the question of kidnapped persons. Former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is chairing the committee. The discussions dealt with the kidnapped people. Al-Huss said the meeting is within the framework of the talks that the committee has been having with officials,because the legitimate authority is the appropriate quarter to receive complaints.

Al-Huss affirmed the need for the International Red Cross to carry out its role in this matter in cooperation with the committee chaired by former Minister Sami Yunis. Minister Khuri promised that he will follow up the question. He said every sincere Lebanese shares the committee's efforts for freeing the kidnapped persons.

Committee Adopting Measures for Evacuation

NC161534 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The necessary security measures are now being adopted in Tripoli to implement the Syrian-Saudi agreement for the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his men. The Northern Coordination Committee held a plenary meeting in Tripoli and issued a statement calling for the release of all kidnapped people and for defining the observation points that the Internal Security Forces will take over.

The committee asked the two conflicting parties to clear all mines after the Internal Security Forces take up positions between them. The committee's meeting will remain open until the agreement announced in Damascus between Syria and Saudi Arabia is implemented.

Northern Delegation Leaves for Damascus

NC161807 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Following the official announcement regarding the departure of 'Arafat loyalists from Tripoli aboard Greek ships under international guarantees and French escort, the Northern Coordination Committee has been exerting great efforts for achieving a reconciliation in Tripoli prior to 'Arafat's departure.

This afternoon, a delegation from the political committee of the Northern Coordination Committee left Tripoli for Damascus. The delegation includes Wasif Fattal, Ghazi al-Adhami, and 'Abdallah Babitti.

The delegation also includes for the first time two members of the pro-'Arafat Islamic Unification Movement led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban. The two members are Samir 'Allush and Shaykh Hashim Minqarah.

A preliminary meeting will be held tonight in Damascus with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami. A plenary meeting will be held tomorrow to be attended by all members of the political committee in order to discuss the question of the reconciliation in Tripoli.

Before leaving for Damascus, 'Abdallah Babitti said: We are leaving for Damascus with many ideas. We came up with these ideas following several contacts within the political committee in order to tackle the situation in Tripoli in a radical way and to complete the necessary arrangements for implementing the withdrawals agreed upon in Damascus, be they in relation to the Greek ships or the required protection which France will ensure by sea and the Syrian forces by land. Babitti said the assembly at Tripoli Port will be under the supervision of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces.

Karami Reports on Tripoli Reconciliation Plan

NC181314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] The Northern Coordination Committee, which met in Damascus under [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, completed a plan for reconciliation in Tripoli. In a statement issued today after the meetings held by the committee in the Syrian capital, Karami said that the differences have been ironed out and that all have agreed on the solutions and the objectives that will restore unity to the ranks, and strength and harmony to national action. Karami added: The agreement provides for freedom of political action, the removal of armed manifestations, and control of weapons. The weapons will now be controlled by a joint committee and only used when necessary to confront any external unexpected development against Tripoli. He added: Agreement was reached to tackle any incident that occurs, to punish the guilty, and hand over to the official authority anyone who commits a crime.

Karami said: This agreement will enable Tripoli to continue playing its role of participating in the march of the national and pan-Arab struggle and to be in solidarity with the steadfast Arab states, foremost being Syria, in confronting the Zionist enemy and those behind it. Representatives of the Islamic Unification Movement, the Communist Party, and the Arab Democratic Party — the three groups that recently waged a military conflict which led to the closure of the Communist Party offices in Tripoli — participated in the Damascus meeting.

Damascus Reports Karami Statements

JN181353 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — The party and political forces in Tripoli have held a series of meetings. These meetings were devoted to discussing and settling the differences among these forces. The conferees agreed on the solutions and objectives that will achieve unity of ranks among the sons of the one city. At the conclusion of these meetings, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami said:

The conferees have agreed on a formula regarding the solutions and objectives that will restore the unity of ranks and the harmony and strength of the national action. The conferees also stressed the elimination of armed manifestations, the collection of weapons, and placing them under the supervision of a joint staff to be used when needed to confront any unforeseen event and to tackle any emergency. Karami added that culprits will be handed over to the competent authorities to be punished.

The importance of the comprehensive national reconciliation has also been stressed to enable all the forces to serve the principles and objectives that embody the Tripoli citizens' aspirations for stability, a return to normal life, and national struggle against all enemies. Karami concluded: By stressing this march that the city of Tripoli is known for, we bless these efforts and this meeting and call on our kinfolk and brothers to return to constructive normal life so that all can be assured about their presence and future, because we realize the importance of solidarity and cooperation so that the city can resume the role that the agents and enemies have worked for too long to obstruct. This role has always been characterized by participation in the national and pan-Arab struggle and by solidarity with all steadfast Arab forces in confronting the Zionist enemy, foremost being Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad.

VOL Reports Harassment of Dayr al-Qamar Evacuees

NC170625 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] A second group of evacuees [from Dayr al-Qamar] arrived at the Burj Hammud stadium [in East Beirut] last night. It was noticed that some of the evacuees had bruises and fractured bones as a result of their being beaten with stones and sticks while their convoy passed through the Junblattist villages.

Personnel manning a Junblattist roadblock in Ma'asir Bayt ad-Din stole money and gold chains after subjecting the evacuees to thorough inspection. The Junblattists were looking for certain individuals.

This is considered a violation of the agreement. It has been understood that the Red Cross will not complete its mission if this is repeated. It has been announced that the evacuation of the third group has been postponed to tomorrow, Sunday, for technical reasons.

Evacuation Postponed for 'Technical Reasons'

NC171309 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text0) The evacuation of the third group of people from Day al-Qamar will not take place today. It has been postponed until tomorrow. Security sources overseeing the evacuation plan have denied that any convoy has left Dayr al-Qamar for Jazzin.

The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], on its part, announced that the convoy of the evacuees, which was scheduled to arrive in Beirut this afternoon, will leave Dayr al-Qamar tomorrow afternoon for technical reasons. At noon today, Radio Israel reported that a third convoy consisting of 500 people had left Dayr al-Qamar for Jazzin.

It cited an ICRC representative as saying that the evacuation will continue until the middle of next week. The representative emphasized that this depends on the safety of the convoys being guaranteed.

Greece Agrees To Send Observers to Dayr al-Qamar

NC171344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The Greek ambassador to Lebanon today informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that his government has agreed in principle to send observers to join the Italian observers in Dayr al-Qamar. The Greek ambassador has asked for clarifications regarding the task of the observers and how they will be protected.

Fadi Afram Thanks Israel for Evacuation

NC172108 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Today Fadi Afram, the commander of the Lebanese Forces, addressed his gratitude to Israel — to the government, people, and Army — for securing the safe departure of the Lebanese forces and those besieged from Dayr al-Qamar. This came in an official statement issued today in Israel. The statement says this operation permitted the alleviation of the sufferings of the Christians who were besieged in Dayr al-Qamar for more than 100 days. This operation has manifested the extent of the Israeli people's friendship of the Lebanese. The statement by the Lebanese forces' command requests an Israeli initiative to guarantee security in Dayr al-Qamar, which still represents the continuation of the Christian-Druze [word indistinct] in the Ash-Shuf area.

Amal Leader Supports Cease-Fire Agreement

NC161436 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Lawyer Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has declared his support of the cease-fire agreement. Answering a pertinent question, Birri said: Although we were not physically present we were aware of the Damascus meetings. He added: It is time that we spare lives and property. Birri added: On the occasion of the prophet's birthday and Christmas, the Amal Movement appeals for Lebanon's freedom through the release of the kidnapped people. He said the cease-fire initiative must be followed by other steps.

French Ambassador to Beirut Meets Nabih Birri

LD161626 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The French ambassador to Beirut had an almost 2-hour-long meeting with Nabih Birri, the leader of the Amal Shi'ite political-military movement.

This was the first meeting between a French official and a Shi'ite official since the French Air Force raid in the Ba'labakk region. Nabih Birri indicated that the meeting had taken place in a frank atmosphere and he asked for a change of French policy in Lebanon.

Franjiyah Criticizes Reagan's Lebanon Policy

PM181952 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-22 Dec 83 pp 3,4

[Interview with former President Sulayman Franjiyah by unnamed *AL-MAJALLAH* correspondent in Zgharta — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you view the future of the Lebanese crisis in the light of the recent developments in Lebanon, the most important of which was the U.S. shelling of your allies in the National Salvation Front and the Syrian positions?

Answer: Anyone following the U.S. policy will be astonished to find that the statements that the President makes are applied in reverse in the area, not only in Lebanon but in the whole Arab area. President Reagan criticizes the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and at the same time allows himself to come to Lebanon and behave as if Lebanon were a colony or an American state. This is what is happening today. Recently he launched an air raid on the Syrian Army, but God the Almighty is always on the side of the person who is right, so the result of the raid was that Reagan lost two or three planes while the Syrian Army lost two martyrs. All these tough actions by Reagan will, God willing, backfire on him. His presence in Lebanon is the main reason for the Lebanese problem. This is because the U.S. policy has planned and is continuing to plan to force Lebanese citizens to emigrate from their country and to give this cherished homeland to the Palestinian people. When the Lebanese emigrate Reagan will say to the Palestinians: You have lost your land in Israel, so please have Lebanon for your own. Take this house in Zgharta instead of your house that was demolished in Ghaza. This has been the U.S. plan since 1975, and it is still being implemented in different forms. But just as the Almighty helped Lebanon to stand fast against this plan He will forever help it to stand fast and exist.

Question: Do you expect a Syrian-U.S. confrontation in view of what happened in the mountains?

Answer: If Reagan continues to think the same way he thinks today, I will not be surprised by any confrontation. But who will win? The United States? I do not think so. Today Reagan is approaching new elections and he has to win or secure for himself the U.S.-Zionist voter. He is likely to create problems that are not in the interest of the United States or of world peace. This is likely to happen now. When an American president is approaching new elections, he sacrifices everything to win votes. This is the fact of the daily life we are living today.

Question: The gamble on the United States is still predominant in the Lebanese arena and in political circles. Will this gamble, in your opinion, continue?

Answer: Had we realistically appraised the situation we would have abandoned this gamble back in 1975. The United States is a giant state but it is tied down and subjected to the Zionist will. We cannot hope for any action or assistance from it that is not in the interest of Israel.

Question: If you were in President al-Jumayyil's place, how would you act in order to rid Lebanon of the alien forces?

Answer: I hope the U.S., Italian, and French forces are not put on the same level as the fraternal forces, that is, the Syrian forces. The Multinational Force came to Lebanon on the pretext of helping Lebanon, but in fact these forces, and particularly the U.S. forces, came in order to force us to deal with Israel. If I were in President al-Jumayyil's place I would have done what I promised. President al-Jumayyil promised to evacuate all the non-Lebanese forces and he should fulfill his promise. I hope that the non-Lebanese forces are not all considered to be the same. The Syrian forces came to Lebanon in order to stop the bloodbath, while the non-Syrian alien forces came in order to carry out a certain specific plan, which is the U.S. plan that calls for evicting the Lebanese from their land.

Question: Walid Junblatt said that the second session of the Geneva conference will not be held. What is your view of his announcement and do you agree with him?

Answer: Geneva I was a victory for Lebanese unity. As for Geneva II I cannot say whether it will be held or not. I do not decide on the matter of convening it. There is a Lebanese policy whose head is his excellency the president, and he decides whether the conference will be held or not. I cannot say today whether all those who attended Geneva I will attend or not. I beleive that this depends on the agenda to be discussed at the coming meeting.

Sa'ib Salam, Others Interviewed on Lebanon

LD161334 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1955 GMT 15 Dec 83

[From the "Panorama" program; report on Lebanon by unidentified correspondent; Lebanese interviewees' answers recorded in Arabic, APN Middle East expert's answers recorded in Russian, all with superimposed Hungarian translation; date and place of interviews not given]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] It is now professed in Washington that the United States must strike and intervene militarily, not just where its alleged interests are affronted but elsewhere, too, where the adversary appears to be weaker and more vulnerable. Reagan said that following Grenada everything has changed. Secretary of State Shultz called the invasion an historical turning point. This is what he said: We have shown the world that no matter how much it costs we defend our interests anywhere, if necessary, with force, too. This, of course, cannot be interpreted otherwise than that Washington is inclining more than hitherto toward conducting foreign policy with military force. So, can Grenada be repeated? Are the Americans preparing to wage war in Lebanon, and what do they want there?

First, let us hear what is said about this by Sa'ib Salam, former Lebanese prime minister and right-wing Muslim politician, who supports President Amin al-Jumayyil. In your opinion, what does the United States want in Lebanon? I know that you recently met with the U.S. President. Did you tell Reagan also that you are not satisfied with the U.S. Middle East policy, and that you deem this policy unsuccessful and dangerous? What did you discuss with Reagan?

[Salam] I held talks with President Reagan as a special envoy of the Lebanese president.

[Correspondent] About what?

[Salam] We spoke for a long time. The topic, of course, was Lebanon and the terrible situation that has arisen in Lebanon and in the Middle East, furthermore, as a result of the policy which the United States has pursued in the region for 35 years. The United States blindly supports Israel, thus causing severe damage to the peoples of the region, to Lebanon, in fact, to itself, the United States, as well. Now, the people in this region hate the United States. Why? Because it blindly supports Israel contrary to its own interests. Israel, however, taking advantage of this support, commits repeated aggression from year to year, and it expands to the detriment of its neighbors. We cannot accept this, because this entails severe consequences, such as those developments in our country, for example.

To this Reagan replied that he will change his policy, and that he will adopt a new course, but to date the U.S. position has not changed. It continues to support Israel.

[Correspondent interrupts] So the Americans....

[Salam interrupts] Now we believe that Israel by its own cleverness — because the Israeli leadership is extremely ingenious — influences U.S. policy much more than the United States influences Israeli policy.

[Correspondent] You do not consider this an overstatement? According to the saying, it is not the tail that wags the dog, but the dog that wags the tail.

[Salam] The tail wags the dog! You can see that Israel....

[Correspondent interrupts] Do you not think that it is precisely in the U.S. interest that its partner, Israel, should be the strongest country in the region and is able to strike its neighbors at any time?

[Salam] Yes, but that it should be so strong? Continuous aggression, constant expansion, hostility with all of the neighboring countries....

[Correspondent interrupts] But the United States is here and fights in Lebanon precisely on the pretext of the Israeli invasion, Israel's war in Lebanon....

[Salam interrupts] This, in itself, means....

[Correspondent interrupts] And NATO is fighting in Lebanon....

[Salam interrupts] Might this mean that it is present? Where is it, and why? Lebanon has been ruined, (?the resources) have been divided up. What use is this for the United States?

Why do we insist on the agreement concluded with the United States and Israel? Because the United States has firmly promised us that it will force Israel to implement this agreement, that Lebanon will again be unified, and that the foreign troops, first Israel, then Syria, and then the armed Palestinians will leave its territory. This is what the agreement was about.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the United States does not have enough strength to assert its will vis-a-vis Israel?

[Salam] Of course it has. If the United States wanted to force its will on Israel, then it could do it even today. For example, 27 years ago when U.S. President Eisenhower ordered Israel to withdraw from the Sinai peninsula it withdrew.

[Correspondent] Do you consider it conceivable that war might break out between the United States and the Soviet Union because of the unresolved Lebanese crisis?

[Salam] I do not believe this. A Soviet-U.S. war is a much larger, more serious affair than what is happening here in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Yes, but do you not fear that the United States is throwing in here larger and larger military forces, that it is carrying out more air attacks against those who displease it?

I do not consider this to be out of the question.

[Salam] I do not believe that it will become more complex than this.

[Correspondent] So you hold the opinion that a war will not break out either between Israel and Syria, or between the United States and...

[Salam interrupts] No, I do not believe this. Between the United States and the Soviet Union? I do not think so.

[Correspondent] And between Israel and Syria?

[Salam] That is an entirely different matter, but no one can predict this now.

[Correspondent] Of course, Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the Phalangist Party, more or less professes that his president-son and his party would be the most pleased if the Americans were to intervene even more militarily than hitherto, and if they were to defeat the Lebanese opposition forces, as well as if they were to push Syria out of the country. In other words, if Grenada were to be repeated here. In these days we see that the war is widening in south Lebanon, in the northern part of the country and also in the Lebanese mountains. U.S., Israeli, and French aircraft are bombing the environs of Beirut. Where can all this lead to? In your opinion is it possible that the United States might start war against Syria?

[Al-Jumayyil] Why are you surprised about this? Lebanon is still occupied. And there is not just one occupying country here. There is Syrian occupation, Palestinian occupation, Libyan occupation, Iranian occupation and, of course, Israeli occupation. Why (?should you be surprised) about a larger war?

[Correspondent] Because the U.S. troops can spark off a world war with this.

[Al-Jumayyil] The U.S. troops came here to help us in freeing Lebanon. Why else could they have come, if not for this reason? We agreed with the United States. That is, the United States, France, Britain, and Italy. All those troops that are here now came to help us militarily, so that we should be liberated.

[Correspondent] So you expect of the United States and of France that their troops, their weapons should provide help....

[Al-Jumayyill interrupts] Our forces...

[Correspondent interrupts] ... to strike a blow on the forces opposing....

[Al-Jumayyil interrupts] Not at all....

[Correspondent interrupts] .... you and on Syria....

[Al-Jumayyil] No, we are fighting with our own forces. We expect only military help from them.

We do not expect anyone to die in our place.

[Correspondent] What kind of help are you thinking of?

[Al-Jumayyil] There are thousands and millions of ways of doing this.

[Correspondent] For example?

[Al-Jumayyil] Every little country, the small countries can be free, they can live calmly, independently, only if they ask for help from the large ones, especially if events take place such as those in our country, Lebanon. This is why we ask for help from a large power. We have asked the United States to help, but not the United States alone — France, Britain, and Italy too.

[Correspondent] But the United States is not helping. It is bombing the Lebanese mountains.

[Al-Jumayyil] That is it: because it does not really dare to fight. That is why we (?have a grudge) against the United States. Of course, the United States may point out that it does not want a war to break out here because of this. This is why it is striving for the problem to be resolved by diplomatic, political means. I consider a military solution to be better, but I understand it if people do not willingly walk into a war. Here, the issue is more serious, than you might think. Here, the United States and the Soviet Union face one another. Here, the issue is not Syria and the Palestinians. This is why the Americans ought to take measures as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] It is a question of whether Reagan can permit himself to force his opponents to obedience simply with beating Syria, for example. President Reagan in fact professes views identical with those of Pierre al-Jumayyil, when he says that the main cause of the upheavals in Lebanon is the Soviet Union, and that here too the issue is East-West confrontation.

I asked Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite community, which comprises 60 percent of the Lebanese population, about the Americans' intentions in Lebanon. By the way, they are accused of the attacks on the main U.S. and French quarters. What do the Americans want in Lebanon?

[Birri] Pardon?

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what does the United States wants in Lebanon?

[Birri] We too ask precisely this. You can see. The Mediterranean Sea is being turned into an inland lake of America.

[Correspondent] So the Americans would like now to achieve this with military force?

[Birri] According to the United States, Lebanon is a significant strategic point of an extremely important strategic region, in the immediate vicinity of the Persian Gulf.

I believe that the United States is striving, with seizure of Lebanon, to crush the entire region all the more under its influence.

[Correspondent] Can war break out between Israel and Syria, and does the United States play a major role in beating down the Lebanese progressive forces?

[Birri] The United States tries to draw Israel into the fights in Lebanon as much as possible. Israel, however, tries to drag the Americans into the Lebanese quagmire. These two countries compete with one another as to which can harm Lebanon more.

[Correspondent] So the war and the military conflicts will continue in Lebanon?

[Birri] In the foreseeable future, yes.

[Correspondent] Now you will hear the analysis of the Middle East expert of APN from Moscow, on Soviet-Syrian military cooperation and on a possible Soviet-U.S. confrontation:

[Unidentified APN expert] In October 1980 the Soviet Union and Syria concluded a mutual assistance and cooperation treaty, and I believe that what is contained in the treaty is valid to the present. The treaty contains extremely important clauses — in fact, they become timely in our days, and they are called to guarantee the security of Syria, this Arab country.

Here, for example, is the sixth clause: This states that in so far as a situation might arise which threatens peace, the security of one of the signatory sides, endangers international security and peace, then the signatory sides would immediately contact one another, in order to coordinate their measures [passage indistinct] has tools which make the Israeli hinterland vulnerable, too. And if Tel Aviv goes so far as to attack Syria, then an appropriate counterstrike will befall Israel on its own territory. The Israelis must reckon on this, and the Americans also must take cognizance of this. There are the U.S. floating bases, the aircraft carriers, which are staying in the eastern areas of the Mediterranean Sea, off the Lebanese shores. The planes taking off from these U.S. warships can reach the territory of Syria, as the artillery of the battleship *New Jersey*, can shell Syrian territory.

So in a conflict situation they, too, can get into danger.

[Correspondent] It appears from your words that the conflict nevertheless cannot become embittered to this extent.

[Expert] Yes. In my opinion, the affair really cannot become so embittered. The Americans and the Israelis must take into account that the sparking off of a widespread war in the region would endanger not only the lives of the U.S. Marines and the security of floating U.S. bases deployed in the region,but also the lives of several thousands of peaceful citizens in Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. The responsibility for the start and extension of warlike actions rests on the United States.

Spokesman Reports U.S. Shelling, Overflights

JN181326 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has reported the following:

Within the framework of the acts of aggression being conducted by U.S. forces against our units in Lebanon, two U.S. F-14 planes overflew some of our forces' positions at 1325 today, 18 December 1983. Our air defense units in the area confronted them, prevented them from carrying out their mission, and forced them to return toward the sea.

Immediately thereafter, some warships of the U.S. fleet which were docking west of Beirut used their guns to shell our forces' positions in Al-Matn.

TISHRIN Comments on Raid

JN190835 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, today's edition of *TISHRIN* comments on the U.S. scheme against the region. It says: U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld has declared that he did not note any change in the Syrian stance on the Lebanese conflict during his recent visit to Damascus. Although U.S. officials were late in discovering the solidity of the principled Syrian stance, it seems that they insist on using their muscles, which no longer frighten anyone.

In fact, it is no coincidence that the repeated U.S. attacks on Syrian positions in Lebanon accompanied Rumsfeld's visit to the region and the continuing contacts arranged by Damascus for the purpose of concluding the Lebanese cease-fire agreement. These contacts were crowned yesterday by a tripartitie meeting involving the Syrian, Saudi, and Lebanese foreign ministers.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration and the leaders of the Zionist entity wish to emphasize their desire to interfere in Lebanese affairs on the basis of the agreement of submission, which was rejected by the Lebanese masses and Syria the day it was signed. This rejection was consecrated during the first sessions of the national dialogue conference in Geneva. The U.S. Administration and the leaders of the Zionist entity want to stress — through the language of threats — their rejection of what has been reached in Geneva, be it the confirmation of Lebanon's Arabism and Arab affiliation, or the rejection of the Zionist hegemony imposed by the agreement of submission.

After the U.S. Administration and the leaders of the Zionist entity realized that Syria is an insurmountable obstacle to their plans, which are aimed at entrenching Zionist occupation and restoring U.S. hegemony over the entire region, the leaders of the Pentagon imagined that by moving from the stage of support for and protection of the Zionist aggressors to the stage of participating in their acts of aggression through planning and implementation, they could frighten Syria. They believed that the mere presence of U.S. forces in the Sinai and Lebanon would force Syria to surrender, or at least be neutral. Then came the big surprise when the powerful U.S. fleet, including the *New Jersey*, the *Independence*, and other warships, produced results contrary to those expected by U.S. officials, particularly after Reagan's direct threats against Syria.

Instead of being terrified, Syria — through its leader Al-Asad — declared: This concentration of force will not frighten Syria. Syria will continue to perform its national duty, and thus act upon the trust given it by the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland. If the officials of the U.S. Administration believe that the participation of U.S. aircraft in acts of aggression and the concentration of naval force will put terror in our hearts, we say that that the downing of U.S. aircraft by our air defense units upset the equation and reaffirmed that our people's will to obtain their freedom and preserve their national sovereignty cannot be defeated by the forces of injustice and aggression.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* says: U.S. aircraft resumed their flights over our positions in Lebanon yesterday. If our air defense units forced them to flee, and if U.S. warships took part in the shelling this time, we — out of self-defense — will be forced to reply to the sources of the U.S. fire. Those who shoot down U.S. aircraft are certainly capable of hitting the *New Jersey*.

Israeli Aircraft 'Intercepted' 19 December

JN190823 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has reported the following:

The Israeli enemy has continued its escalation of the situation in Lebanon. At 0745 today, 19 December 1983, two formations of Israeli aircraft overflew our forces' positions in Al-Matn and Dahr al-Baydar. One of the two formations strafed a position and a hospital belonging to the [Lebanese] nationalist movement in Bhamdun. Our air defense units intercepted the enemy aircraft and forced them to return toward occupied territory.

Salim, Al-Faysal Arrive, Hold Talks With Khaddam

JN181249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] At 1000 today, Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim arrived in Damascus on a visit to Syria. He was met at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and by Musbah ad-Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus at 1015 today and was received by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Musbah ad-Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and his embassy staff.

Immediately upon arrival at the Foreign Ministry, the three ministers held a meeting which was attended by the accompanying Lebanese and Saudi delegations, and by the Saudi ambassa dor in Damascus as well. They discussed the current regional situation, with particular emphasis on Lebanon.

Second Round of Talks

JN181429 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Dec (SANA) — At 1230 today, the second round of talks was held among 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. They completed their discussion of the regional situation, with special attention on Lebanon.

Salim, Al-Faysal Depart

JN181911 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] At 1430 today, a second round of talks was held involving 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Elie Salim, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. During the session, they completed their discussion of the current regional situation with particular emphasis on conditions prevailing in Lebanon.

Following the meeting, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made a statement in which he said: We held detailed discussions on all aspects of the Lebanese situation in order to create a climate conducive to the success of the forthcoming Lebanese National Dialogue Conference. We will meet again at the beginning of next month in Saudi Arabia.

In reply to a question as to what has been achieved on the 17 May agreement, the minister said: All issues are open for discussion. On the security agreement in Lebanon, Khaddam said: The Lebanese Security Committee has achieved some bases that are being discussed by the competent leaders in the Lebanese Government, the National Salvation Front, and the Amal Movement.

As for the date on which the forthcoming Geneva conference will be convened, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs declared: It will be set at the conclusion of the current discussions.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus this evening following a 1-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Misbah ad-Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and by the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

AL-BA'TH: U.S. 'Sabotaging' Lebanese Dialogue

JN180845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "To Promote Lebanese Reconciliation, U.S.-Zionist Aims Must Be Aborted," the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* declares:

Concerted efforts are being made to reconvene the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Geneva. This conference was temporarily adjourned last month to allow President Amin al-Jumayyil to complete the tasks that were assigned him by those attending the session. These tasks concern the 17 May agreement, that is, the agreement of submission. At that time, the conferees demanded the cancellation of the agreement in order to achieve a practical, effective solution that would end Lebanon's problems.

AL-BA'TH adds: Although the results of Al-Jumayyil's visits to certain Arab and European countries are not yet fully known, what has leaked out about these visits are sufficient to allow one to say that the results are not encouraging. The Reagan administration, which created the 17 May agreement between the Lebanese authorities and the Zionist enemy, has officially threatened to tear Lebanon apart if the Beirut government cancels the agreement. In order to prevent the reconvening of the Lebanese reconciliation conference, the United States and Israel have escalated their hostile action against the Lebanese nationalists and the Syrian positions in Lebanon.

Israel is the main beneficiary of these recent developments. It has also played its full role in an attempt to not only postpone the conference, but to sabotage it, and wipe out all hope for achieving Lebanon's territorial integrity and reuniting its people. The recent visit to Beirut by Eytan, former Israeli chief of staff, and 'Ivri, commander of the Israeli Air Force, as well as their meetings involving a number of Phalangist militia leaders, have proven that there is a new plot to explode the Lebanese situation in an attempt to return the situation to square one. The aim is to implement the agreement of submission, and hence deal a military blow to Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. This would be followed by the forging of a new Camp David agreement in which Jordan's King Husayn would play one of the major roles.

Thus, it has now been determined that national reconciliation, which is considered to be the best solution to all of Lebanon's problems, is diametrically opposed to U.S. policy, which is aimed not only at Lebanon, but at the entire Arab nation as well.

The paper points out that Syria, which has been working to solve Lebanon's problems through fraternal dialogue since the beginning of the Lebanese crisis, has always warned — but all the more so recently — that the U.S. Administration is working to transform Lebanon into an advanced base that would allow both Washington and Tel Aviv to realize their aims as stipulated in the strategic alliance agreement recently concluded in Washington.

Syrian and Lebanese nationalist resistance to the agreement of submission has been based on their sound realization of the evil which the United States harbors for Lebanon through this capitulatory contract, which robs Lebanon of its sovereignty and independence, and poses a real threat to Syria and the entire Arab nation.

Concluding, *AL-BA'TH* declares: Despite the fact that the United States, Israel, and some Lebanese agents are working together in order to escalate tension for the purpose of sabotaging the reconciliation process, Syria believes that it is quite possible to abort this conspiratorial, aggressive policy by sincerely and firmly confronting U.S.-Israeli attempts at escalation in order to promote reconciliation. This reconciliation cannot be promoted by statements such as the ones recently issued in Lebanon to justify U.S.-Israeli aggressive operations.

Anti-U.S. 'Revolutionary Violence' Sought

JN181903 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: Sources in the U.S. Pentagon have admitted that the U.S. Administration headed by President Reagan has decided to use acts of violence and sabotage — implemented by a few thousand members of the U.S. Special Forces — against those states which hamper U.S. policy. These sources have described Syria as being among the major states in the Middle East which will be the target of such acts of sabotage. They have similarly revealed that the joint U.S.-Israeli command will be a party in running these operations. This command has established posts in Lebanon and occupied Palestine to serve as links between itself and U.S. military bases in Egypt and Oman.

An official at the Washington Institute for Political Studies has described the Pentagon's decision — which was made after consultations with President Reagan and after receiving the approval of the U.S. National Security Council and the CIA command — as representing a serious change in U.S. operations, a change to offensive operations that frighten people and arouse the concern of those states which are the target of these operations.

Without going into the details of the plans that have been approved by Washington and the roles drawn up for Israel, the partners of the United States in the NATO pact, and its regional agents, it is clear that the conflict in our region is proceeding toward a new stage, a stage in which the United States — relying upon its forces and those of its allies and agents, and on its modern means of reconnaissance, supervision, and deployment to operational areas — will carry out premeditated acts of terrorism and sabotage that will take the place of direct military confrontation.

The question is: What can we do to confront this U.S. course? Undoubtedly, the answer is clear — U.S. acts of terrorism and sabotage must be confronted by revolutionary violence against the United States and its interests in any place where this revolutionary violence can be organized, even if it is to take place within the United States itself. Reagan and his administration must realize that the acts of murder and sabotage which they perpetrate against others will not pass without the United States facing countermeasures that will inflict death and destruction on the U.S. imperialists, their allies, and tools.

The revolutionary forces that are concerned with waging such a struggle against U.S. imperialists and their allies are spread throughout the world, including the United States itself. This will turn Washington's acts of terrorism and sabotage into a game that will generate counteractions and blows. Regardless of the means the U.S. imperialists use in this terrorist war, it will eventually lose, because the will of the forces of progress and liberation in the world is the strongest and the more capable of pursuing the struggle until the imperialists and their tools are defeated.

TISHRIN: Confrontation Is 'Unswerving Policy'

JN170701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Unswerving Decision," *TISHRIN* says: With the escalation of U.S. acts of aggression against Syria, and their transformation into an overt and daily part of U.S. policy — a daily war in accordance with an explicit U.S. decision based on the approval of the highest authority in the U.S. Administration — Syria has no other choice but to announce in its turn that the decision to confront U.S. aggression is an unswerving policy stemming from its legitimate right to defend itself, its borders, and its forces and allies in Lebanon against any attack — on the ground, in the air, or at sea — to which it may be subjected.

Perhaps we must remember and remind others that the decision to confront will be taken whenever the United States rashly attacks us. Syria resorted to this right when it shot down the U.S. planes, and will resort to this right whenever military or strategic requirements so dictate. Syria will not be dissuaded from implementing the everlasting decision of confrontation that has been made on behalf of our forces, regardless of the cost or sacrifices involved. Under no circumstances or pressure will Syria bargain over the exercise of this sacred right. We have declared repeatedly that if U.S. attacks on us are taking place under a false pretext of self-defense, thus making the United States move its forces from the remotest areas of the world to our borders, and if the United States claims that it is defending them by striking at our forces and committing acts of aggression against us, then it goes without saying that Syria has the right to defend its forces along its borders and in Lebanon, Syria's vital flank.

TISHRIN adds: If the United States has the right to reconnoiter our forces — an act of war in the fullest sense of the word — under the pretext of ensuring the safety of the United States and the presence of its Marines, doesn't Syria have the right to observe the Marines and the U.S. fleet as a means of safeguarding our borders, our safety, and the security of our forces in Syria and Lebanon? Isn't the U.S. presence on the ground and at sea in Lebanon the beginning of an act of aggression against us and a form of preparation for a strike against our forces? This is so, particularly since the United States has announced and continues to announce that the *New Jersey*, for example, can launch missiles capable of reaching our forces anywhere in

Lebanon and fire shells weighing 1 and 1/4 tons. Of course, these bombs do not contain sweets or gifts to our forces and people. They contain death and destruction. Syria has the right to observe the movement of these fleets and to monitor their tactical defensive or offensive activities, as this is part of the legitimate right of self-defense, the right to abort any U.S. preparations for the launching of an act of aggression against us. Rest assured that no one can deprive us of this right should the United States pursues its acts of piracy.

As part of its unchanging military strategy, Syria also has the right to seek the means to develop this legitimate right in order to avert aggression. It similarly has the right to procure the appropriate options regardless of the location of the naval unit from which an act of aggression against us may be committed.

As we have stated more than once, this is neither a threat nor a pompous stand. We are not threatening the United States. We cannot do that. We are, however, warding off the death threat directed against us and removing from our forces and people the guns of death aimed at us from the Lebanese coast. Our national and pan-Arab obligations make it our duty to use all means and methods — these are not scarce; they are available — that will menable us to remove any U.S. naval unit from the battle. By doing this, we will be removing our people from the U.S. circle of death. We will never lack the means to do this. The United States will be surprised at the miracles which Syria will perform in its own defense, and at the methods and tools it will improvise. These methods and tools will be capable of warding off death and permanently removing the bastions of U.S. aggression which are docking off our coasts. It is the U.S. Fleet which has come to commit aggression against us, and not vice versa. Our presence in Lebanon, which predates that of the United States, enjoys more legitimacy and credibility.

The first shell fired since the Vietnam war by the *New Jersey* — the U.S. destroyer [as heard] with which they terrorize the world — was directed against Syrian forces. The United States does not deny this. It boasts that it will strike and chastise Syria. This is an overt and official doctrine, one of the constants which the United States has adopted in its Middle East policy, a policy that has been rejected by all peoples, particularly by the Syrian and Arab people.

They will discover that Syria is not the easy prey they imagined it to be, and that the *New Jersey*, which brings us death, will itself not be safe from this death. Any dialogue with the United States, through any envoy, cannot be held outside the framework of the impact of this explosive congestion which the United States has fabricated in the region in order to peddle its devilish policies, which have been rejected and condemned by Syria and the Arabs.

It would be a humorless joke for the United States to mention the issue of the U.S. pilot who has been taken prisoner while it conducts a campaign of aggression against us on a daily and official basis. The United States is fully aware of the regulations, bases, and conditions which govern the discussion of such issues at a time when — as a result of a U.S., and not a Syrian decision — it is in a state of total war against us.

TISHRIN concludes: This state of war is a comprehensive one. It must either be discussed or ignored in a comprehensive manner. One cannot make selections or discuss separate issues. Armed dialogue is usually obstructed by sabre-rattling and the roar of the *New Jersey's* shells, which do not facilitate the promotion of an objective dialogue. We do not believe that the United States will succeed in achieving any of its declared objectives in Lebanon or in the region through the use of the *New Jersey* or its giant fleet in the Mediterranean. This is so because Syria — in the words of our leader Hafiz al-Asad — has decided not to surrender. Syria has also decided to foil all the schemes that have been formulated for this region. Syria remains committed to its stand vis-a-vis the agreement of submission, and to its belief that the withdrawal of all U.S. and NATO forces from Lebanon is the only prelude to a serious dialogue with the United States in a region subjected to aggression.

Commentary Seeks End to Arab 'Fragmentation'

JN161529 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The Middle East is passing through eventful days, days which warn against the consequences of a danger that will not be confined to a single Arab country. Israel and the United States are targeting the entire Arab region. This is a fact known to all Arabs, even through some of them do not like to openly admit it.

The Americans and the Israelis have made Syria a target of large-scale aggression. This campaign of aggression is being conducted step by step, and will become broader in the future, despite the fact that President Reagan recently said that he does not want war with Syria. What is actually taking place does not encourage us to believe President Reagan, as his logic is not in harmony with his warships' shelling of our positions in Lebanon.

Even the U.S. pretext of self-defense is false, and cannot convince anyone. The Americans claim that the Marines came to Lebanon for the sake of peace. Is it true that the military actions launched by U.S. forces are a service to peace? Is this huge number of warships and planes required to protect the Marines? On the contrary, U.S. warships have not come to protect the Marines; they have come — in the words of a U.S. military commander — for political purposes. President Reagan himself admitted that his forces must be in Lebanon to protect U.S. interests in the Arab region and to work for achieving a U.S.-style peace — in accordance with the Camp David accords and the plan which bears Reagan's name. More than one U.S. official has said this. Their concern is the achievement of their objectives by force. That is why U.S. forces came to Lebanon under the slogan of first, protecting peace; second, protecting the Marines; and third, achieving its objectives and ambitions in the region. France has followed the U.S. example, and has dispatched aircraft carriers and other warships using the same pretexts as the United States. Thus, the states represented in the Multinational Force act as if they were one nation.

The Arab region is passing through a serious stage without precedent in the Israeli-Arab conflict, which erupted after the usurpation of Palestine. The United States has become a direct Israeli partner in any future war, in accordance with the agreement signed by both parties in Washington. The acts of aggression launched by U.S. forces in Lebanon are the first interpretation of that agreement, which was met by angry reaction from the Arabs. A speech-making party followed in the majority of those Arab capitals which the United States is trying to calm with flowery diplomatic statements in the wake of the criticism which arose throughout the Arab world in protest of the Israeli-U.S. agreement. Now that this is over, the reaction has ended, as if the agreement itself has been voided.

Current conditions in the Arab world make it impotent and incapable of replying to the challenge. Yes, current conditions in the Arab world make it impotent and incapable of replying to the challenge; but this will not last for long. Will the field be free for the enemies' taking? Will the state of Arab fragmentation and disunity continue? We pin our hopes on the honest people in the Arab world and on the Arab masses to confront this Israeli-U.S. onslaught. The acts of air and naval aggression against Syria which form this basis of this onslaught can actually be seen as a prelude to wider aggression. The limits of this aggression might the point where Israeli tanks can reach, in accordance with Sharon's plan, and where Israel's security borders are to be.

If the Arabs do not close ranks and confront the aggressors, they will lose their borders and their existence. Once again we say that we pin our hopes on the honest sons of the Arab nation, who will not leave the field to the enemies regardless of the sacrifices or the price. Hope is still pinned on Syria, which represents the feelings of this nation and leads the Arab masses toward cohesion, struggle, and victory.

YAR Official Arrives in Damascus 16 December

JN161657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — Ahmad ash-Sijni, YAR minister of state for cabinet affairs, arrived here today on a visit to Syria that will last several days. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Ash-Sijni stressed that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has sent him to Damascus in order to be assured of President Hafiz al-Asad's health, and to express the support of the YAR people and government for Syria's pan-Arab stand and its steadfastness when faced with imperialist and colonialist onslaughts and the enemies of Arabism.

Ash-Sijni added that this visit falls within the framework of the continuing contacts and consultations which the two fraternal countries are holding in order to bolster and promote bilateral relations. He highlighted the fact that the YAR's political leadership pays special attention to Syria because of its stands against imperialism and Zionism. He added that the YAR's political leadership hopes that these contacts will continue, and that it may be able to acquaint itself with Syria's steadfast stand toward the repeated imperialist and Zionist aggressions against Syria.

Received by Al-Kasm

JN171349 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — At 1100 today, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Ahmad 'Ali ash-Sijni, YAR minister of state for cabinet affairs.

During their meeting, the visiting minister expressed the YAR's support for Syria's stand vis-a-vis the hostile policy jointly adopted by the United States and the Israel. He stressed that when his country criticizes this aggression, it considers Damascus to be a fortress of Arab steadfastness and confrontation, and appreciates the sacrifices of heroic Syria and its people in defending themselves and the Arab cause.

Al-Kasm briefed the visiting minister on Syria's stand toward all the incidents to which it has been exposed, stressing that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is determined to confront and repulse any act of aggression during this serious time. Al-Kasm also stressed Syria's firm stand toward pan-Arab issues, pointing out that the Israeli-U.S. strategic alliance is directly aimed at Syria, as our country represents the solid line and the forward trench of the comprehensive Arab front.

Received by Ba'th Official

JN181456 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1405 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Dec (SANA) — Ahmad 'Ali ash-Sijni, YAR minister of state for cabinet affairs, has praised Syria's stand — one of confrontation of U.S.-Israeli aggression — and has stressed that this position is in defense of the Arab nation.

During his meeting this morning with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, Ash-Sijni reaffirmed his country's support of Syria against the hostile policy of the United States. He added: Syria's role and stand have become a symbol of struggle for the Arab nation. What harms Syria will harm every Arab, wherever he may be. He also declared that any act of aggression against Syria is an act of aggression against the entire Arab nation.

During their meeting, the two men discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, with particular emphasis on Lebanon. Comrade al-Ahmar explained the dangers of the aggressive U.S. role in the region to Ash-Sijni, stressing that the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement is the basic preparatory link for this aggression.

Comrade al-Ahmar repeated Syria's firm stand in favor of confronting U.S.-Zionist aggression and every U.S., Israeli, and NATO provocation. He said that Syria will repulse any aggression and reply in a strong and courageous manner. He added that Syria will continue to support the Lebanese national forces, their independence, and their Arabism. He declared that Syria will remain the stauch protector of the Arab nation's honor and dignity. Al-Ahmar also pointed out that all peace-loving forces support Syria, particularly the socialist bloc countries led by the friendly USSR.

Received by Al-Asad

JN181838 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Dec (SANA) — At 1645 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Ahmad 'Ali ash-Shijni, YAR minister of state for cabinet affairs. The meeting was also attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, YAR ambassador in Damascus.

Ash-Shijni brought the president a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with both the regional situation and U.S. threats and provocations against Syria. The note also contained an affirmation of the YAR's support for Syria in its confrontation of hostile U.S.-Israeli schemes, and sharply criticized U.S. aggression against Syrian forces in Lebanon.

The president thanked the YAR — president, government, and people — and asked the Yemeni minister to carry a reply to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The talks held during the meeting centered on developments in the regional situation in light of the U.S. escalation of its provocations and military activities. The president affirmed Syria's unwavering and principled stand, its determination to repulse aggression, and the use of its legitimate right to defend itself, our Arab nation, and pan-Arab issues.

'Mammoth' Rally Held To Condemn U.S. Policy

JN181501 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Hama — The city of Hama was the site of a mammoth popular rally which denounced and condemned the antagonistic policy adopted by the United States toward Syria, and stressed the rallying of our people around the wise and brave policy of President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the hostile conspiracies and schemes against our Arab nation.

Senior party and state officials, as well as representatives from all the popular sectors in Hama Province participated in this rally to express our people's rejection of Zionist-U.S. designs.

Comrade Walid Hamdun delivered the speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. In his remarks, Hamdun conveyed the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad to our kinfolk in Hama Province, and stressed the determination of the Syrian masses to support confrontation and steadfastness. He said that Syria will not be frightened by the Zionist-U.S. fleets. Comrade Hamdun addressed the masses in the city of Abi al-Fida' [Hama], with the words: This rally is the best proof of your anger at U.S. acts of aggression against our forces in Lebanon and at the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel.

Comrade Hamdun added: The United States has unveiled its aggressive face and has placed all its resources at the disposal of Zionist aggression against our Arab nation and our heroic forces in Lebanon and the Golan. He declared that U.S. aggression has arisen due to Syria's firm and principled stand in defending the Arab nation's issues and foiling the agreement of submission imposed on Lebanon. He also stressed the determination of the Syrian masses and the Arab nation to frustrate all hostile designs, regardless of the price.

The speeches made on behalf of the popular organizations, the Progressive National Front, and the local Ba'th Party branch praised our country's steadfast stands and stressed that our masses are determined to stand as one behind our leader Al-Asad against any Zionist-U.S. aggression anywhere.

At the end of the rally, the masses of Hama Province sent a cable of loyalty and allegiance to our leader Al-Asad, stressing that they are determined to pursue the struggle along the road of construction and liberation.

Shamir Discusses Tripoli Evacuation

AU190928 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Vienna television reporter Hans Benedict in Jerusalem on 18 December, in English with superimposed German translation — recorded, passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] [Benedict] /Mr Prime Minister, it has always been Israel's/ intention to remove all of the PLO from Lebanon. Now another PLO evacuation is ahead, the second since last year's Lebanon war. Nevertheless Israel has set up a blockade and launched attacks against the PLO. What is the purpose of that?

[Shamir] Thus far, we have /not undertaken anything against the evacuation of the PLO, but we are fighting against the PLO because the PLO is our most extreme enemy./ The PLO has proved this again recently by its /murderous attack against civilians in a bus in Jerusalem./ And that is why no one can ask us /to stop our fighting against the PLO./

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, will you let the PLO forces get away as soon as they are aboard the evacuation ships under the flags of Greece and of the United Nations?

[Shamir] /Our steps against the PLO/ have nothing to do /with the plans of withdrawal or not withdrawal; it does not interest us,/ we are fighting against the PLO everywhere.

[Benedict] Then, you will do something against the evacuation?

[Shamir] I have no more to say except that /we will never stop fighting the PLO./

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, assuming the 3,000-4,000 PLO men have been evacuated, there will nevertheless be substantial PLO forces in Lebanon, including many of those 4,000 PLO members who were Israeli POW's and were released in exchange for 6 Israelis. /How does this affect the military and the political situation in Lebanon?/

[Shamir] /Well, I am not the accountant of the PLO manpower. To us, the PLO is a hostile organization; it is all the time fighting against us/ wherever it can, and we are fighting it wherever we can. /And we will do everything possible not to make their activity possible./ And that's all.

Shamir on Soviet, Jordanian, Lebanese Issues

TA161007 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 16 Dec 83 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yona Kohen: "There Is Something To Talk About With King Husayn" on 12 December; place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: With your permission, Mr Prime Minister, I will begin with a question relating to foreign relations. It was reported that you had sent a letter to the Soviet Union. Is that true?

Answer: No, and we have already denied this. In my Knesset speech last week I denied and rejected accusations originating in the Soviet Union, to the effect that we had asked the United States for Pershing missiles, whose range is 1,700 km, and that we wanted to be able to reach as far as the Soviet Union, and so on. There were also accusations claiming we are planning a war against Syria. I denied this both in my speech in the Knesset plenum and before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. We brought these things to the attention of the Soviet Union. This was done through the usual political channels — not by means of a letter.

Question: In your Knesset speech you said that specific steps would be taken shortly to strengthen our ties with the United States. What steps will be taken, apart from the joint committee that is to convene on 10 January? Will there be additional committees?

Answer: Practical discussions are beginning in all areas. Various administrative frameworks are being established to determine a joint method of operating in economic, military, and other fields. A number of joint teams will discuss these issues. There is also a dialogue on coordinating activity in the Third World.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, in your talks with the U.S. President, no doubt mention was also made of the Reagan plan, which was rejected by the Israeli Government. Does this plan still exist, following your talks there?

Answer: Yes. The President reiterated that the United States believes this is a constructive plan and it is committed to it. On the other hand, we again made clear our own position, that we consider the Camp David accords to be the sole practical basis for solving the problems of the territories. In actual fact, each of us continues to adhere to his own stand on this matter. President Reagan noted, at the conclusion of his statement on the visit and the talks, that there are differences of opinion between us, and that this need not interfere with normal relations and cooperation between friendly countries.

Question: Now, with your permission, may we move to the Lebanon issue? What is, in fact and at this time, the status of the Israel-Lebanon agreement? Has it been suspended? Frozen? Is it valid?

Answer: As you know, the agreement was signed and ratified by the governments and parliaments of both countries. To make it valid and binding, official ratification documents must be exchanged, but that has not been done yet.

Question: Is there still a chance that the Lebanese Army will gain in strength and be able to take our place in Lebanon, so that the IDF can withdraw to the Az-Zahrani, or even to the Litani River?

Answer: We remain faithful to what is written in the agreement with Lebanon, which is guaranteed by the United States. We believe that any action taken should be in accordance with the agreement, which states that Lebanon needs a strong government, capable of ruling in the areas which the IDF is ready and anxious to vacate. If the IDF is to carry out an additional withdrawal, then what is needed is a strong Lebanese element able to take our place in governing these areas. The most appropriate element is the Lebanese Government and its Army.

Question: A *DAVAR* editorial says your declaration and invitation to King Husayn to join the negotiations is not meant sincerely, that you will first have to announce your readiness to make concessions in the West Bank, and that the question is not whether Husayn is prepared to join the negotiations, but, according to *DAVAR*, whether Israel is ready for such negotiations. What is your reaction to this?

Answer: I am astonished at this article. Has Husayn stated whether he is prepared to make concession and if so, what they are? He has on numerous occasions and in various ways declared and demanded a total withdrawal on our part. Has he gone back on that? Why this unequal treatment? Why demand Israeli concessions but not Jordanian concessions? I have on a number of occasions invited King Husayn for talks with us. What he says in reply is hardly encouraging. My invitation is sincere. He knows our stands, and we know his; but there is still room — as well as a need — for us to meet and talk. Without a meeting, there is certainly no chance of making progress. There is something to talk about.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, what about relations with Egypt? We seem to be showing a readiness for a normalization of relations, but this is not so in Egypt. What is the situation?

Answer: The situation is unchanged. In other words, there is no change for the better. We are making efforts to improve the situation. We also raised this subject in our talks in the United States. We asked them to use their influence, and let us hope for an improvement.

Question: Sir, at the end of January an important visitor is expected in Israel — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. What does Israel expect to achieve from this visit? In the talks with him, will we raise the matter of German arms supplies for Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries? Will we demand that Nazi crimes not be governed by the statute of limitations?

Answer: Relations between Israel and West Germany are normal and friendly. Chancellor Kohl's visit will certainly help to improve and strengthen these relations. We shall raise all the issues mentioned by you, and others as well, in our talks with him.

Question: Tempers are running very high in Israel following the murderous terrorist attacks. There is still enormous shock over the brutal murder of the boy from Haifa, Danny Katz. Then there are the continuing incidents of stonethrowing, which jeopardize the lives of settlers. Mr Prime Minister, what is to be done about all these?

Answer: Police and security forces are intensifying their efforts to find the criminals and curb acts of murder and violence of every kind.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, do you intend to tour the settlements of Judaea and Samaria, Arab towns and villages in various regions?

Answer: Definitely. I set aside 1 day a week for touring the country. I intend to visit the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, as well as various Arab towns and villages.

Question: Statements have been made of late by Arab figures against the extremists in their midst: the condemnation of the bus explosion in Jerusalem; the statements made by the mayor of Jericho, Jamil Khalaf, and by an Arab journalist, also from Jericho, to the effect that Israel must wipe out the extremist elements working for the PLO or 'Arafat and Al-Asad. Does not this encourage the emergence of a moderate Arab leadership?

Answer: Naturally, constructive statements such as these and others are important, but not to the extent of encouraging a moderate leadership to emerge. The positive signs are not yet strong enough to bring about a change in the situation in the Arab sector of the country.

Question: One last question, Mr Prime Minister: You said that you would not cease making efforts to bring about a national unity government and that this is all the more important now. Will you renew your efforts in this direction?

Answer: I have in the past supported and still wholeheartedly continue to support a national unity government. I have not changed my mind on this.

The interview is over. On a number of issues, such as Israel's stand and its aim regarding 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli under the protection of the United Nations, Mr Shamir preferred not to reply. He said: "I neither confirm nor deny what is being written on this matter."

Navy Shells Targets in Tripoli Port 18 Dec

TA181502 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] This afternoon, Israeli Navy boats shelled terrorist targets in the port of Tripoli and north of it. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. The IDF spokesman reports that our forces reported accurate hits. Our military correspondent reports that fire was opened from the shore at the Israeli boats. As stated, there were no casualties and the boats did not sustain any damage.

Shelling Continues 19 Dec

TA190505 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli gunboats again shelled PLO targets in Tripoli early this morning. There were no Israeli casualties. The Israeli army spokesman says the gunboats reported accurate hits on their targets. Fire was directed at the Israeli Navy ships from the shore, but there was no damage and no Israeli casualties.

Further Details

TA190539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli Navy shelled terrorist targets in the Tripoli port early this morning. Although Israel is still keeping its intentions regarding the terrorists' evacuation secret, the Navy's shellings indicate an attempt to delay or prevent the terrorists' exit from Tripoli. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin recording] Israel is not saying what it will do if the terrorists are evacuated from Tripoli: Will it let the evacuating ships proceed with their mission, or will it try to capture 'Arafat and his men? These questions will continue to trouble the terrorists, and it seems they will not know the answer up to the moment of evacuation, if the evacuation is indeed carried out. What is clear is that as the time of evacuation comes nearer, the terrorists now concentrating their forces and heavy weaponsin the Tripoli port area receivelouder and clearer messages.

The Israeli Navy shelled the port this morning. This was the seventh time that they have shelled terrorist targets from the sea since the terrorist act against the Jerusalem bus. The military pressure on the terrorists is continuing; and although the IDF has not hindered any practical stage of the evacuation, it is difficult to believe that the accurate shelling of terrorist positions, concentrations of ammunition, and heavy arms in the port and the quays from which the evacuating ships are to sail, will not have an effect. If at the beginning, the Israeli Navy shelled terrorist positions north of Tripoli port and in the southern Tripoli old quarter where 'Arafat's men are concentrated, the ships' artillery fire is today following the terrorists' movements in the direction of the port. According to terrorists' reports, the terrorists are anticipating an IDF operation which will disrupt the evacuation.

As said, Israel is not clarifying its intentions. The IDF is continuing to prevent the evacuation with accurate shelling, and no one is getting any guarantees from Israel that it will refrain from acting against the evacuation. [end recording]

Tripoli Harassment To Continue

TA190959 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Tuviya Mendelsson]

[Excerpt] Authorized political elements in Jerusalem yesterday mentioned five points marking the Israeli policy regarding Yasir 'Arafat's evacuation from Tripoli:

— Israel fought and will continue to fight the PLO;

— Israel is opposed to any attempt to give cover for 'Arafat's evacuation;

— No guarantees were given that Israel will not try to prevent 'Arafat's evacuation from Tripoli;

— Israel continues to support the evacuation of all foreign forces from Lebanon;

— Israel will not harm vessels belonging to countries with whom it has relations.

These things, against the background of the IDF Navy action yesterday in Tripoli, make Israel's position clear, according to political observers and experts. According to the observers' opinion, Israel intends to continue its harrassment in an attempt to impede and interfere with the evacuation of 'Arafat and his 4,000 men from Tripoli, and perhaps even to harm 'Arafat himself.

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist Bases' in Bhamdun

TA190617 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0616 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] An announcement just released by the IDF spokesman: Israeli Air Force planes this morning attacked terrorist bases in the area of Bhamdun on the Beirut-Damascus Highway. All our planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported accurate hits on the targets.

Attack Signal to Druze

TA191146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1123 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal — recorded]

[Text] The targets which the Israeli Air Force attacked today were two stone structures in the town of Bhamdun: One was a three-story building, and the other a 2-story building. It is known that the people of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], the rebels against 'Arafat, have lately organized in the Bhamdun region. The Israeli pilots reported accurate hits on the targets. The bases attacked today had been turned into operational terrorist bases under Syrian aegis following the IDF withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf region. The IDF is now attacking a wide variety of targets of all organizations. Just as the IDF acted against 'Arafat loyalists in Tripoli, so Israeli planes today attacked targets of an organization protected by the Syrians. Among other things, the attack was intended to signal the Druze who took control of Ash-Shuf following the IDF's exit that they should keep the promises they made in Israel and Lebanon that the Ash-Shuf will remain free of terrorists.

As for Tripoli, 'Arafat's announcement on the delayed arrival of the rescue ships proves that the naval shellings achieved their goal and prevnted the terrorists' exit as Israel desires. 'Arafat is in Tripoli for the time being.

Sources Fear PLO Evacuees Will Return to Lebanon

TA171914 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1908 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Israel will not stand in the way of the ships which will evacuate 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli next week. Security sources this evening expressed their fear to our political correspondent Yoram Ronen that the terrorist attacks against Israel might rise after the evacuation of 'Arafat. The faction of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], whose men have been busy fighting 'Arafat in the last few months, might now turn to attacks against

Israel. Also, 'Arafat's evacuated men might return to Lebanon with their weapons and try to resume terrorist activities. The security sources emphasized that the Israeli security forces in Lebanon are prepared for the eventuality that terrorist activities might rise. 'Arafat's evacuation will be discussed at the Cabinet session tomorrow, following briefings by the prime minister and the defense minister. A debate may also be held at the session about contradictory statements made by Cabinet ministers last week to the effect that Israel would or would not allow 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli.

Schiffer Assesses Jerusalem Evacuation Stance

TA180610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — recorded]

[Text] This morning there is almost no doubt that Yasir'Arafat will emerge alive from Tripoli. This will be possible since he has managed to arrange for international protection, and since Israel has not made a counter decision.

The Jerusalem position regarding the terrorists' evacuation can be summed up as follows: Israel continues to fight the PLO, and views the killing of 'Arafat as a goal. However, if for reasons which are not dependent on Israel, it is impossible to harm 'Arafat and his people, Israel will not attack ships flying foreign flags.

In the contacts among the countries which will participate in the evacuation of 'Arafat and his people, Israel refused to give clear-cut promises not to attack the evacuating boats. Only when Italy announced it was going to send a ship to evacuate the wounded terrorists from Tripoli and appealed to Israel not to harm the ship, did it receive a promise that for humanitarian reasons the Italian ship would not be harmed. France, which is sending a number of destroyers to escort the Greek ships which will evacuate the terrorists from Tripoli, promised that its ships will escort the Greek ones from Cypriot territory. What will happen to 'Arafat and his people up to the time they embark on the ships in Tripoli? Judging by the public statements of some ministers, it is possible to conclude that this matter has not been decided by Israeli policymakers. The argument is whether to cause a delay in the evacuation so as to prolong the fighting between 'Arafat's followers and the followers of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], or whether to allow the evacuation to be completed as soon as possible. Israel is continuing to keep its position on this question unclear, and the ministers will discuss this in their meeting today.

Peres: Israel Should Exploit Split in PLO

TA181920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Opposition Labor Alignment Chairman Shim'on Peres said Israel must exploit the split in the PLO's ranks in order to get a political solution in which the PLO will not represent the Palestinians. Peres told a visiting French parliamentary group that Jordanian and Palestinian delegations should participate in the negotiations with Israel to arrange a federation or confederation between Jordan and most of the territories.

Communique on 18 December Cabinet Meeting

TA181544 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Communique on 18 December Cabinet session read by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor — recorded]

[Text] In the weekly Cabinet session today — a prolonged one, as you can see — the Cabinet heard reports on matters pertaining to Lebanon. Following these reports, the Cabinet held a debate. These matters were discussed within the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

The Cabinet heard a review by the chief of staff about the operation to evacuate the refugees from Dayr al-Qamar.

Major General Amnon Reshef presented the Cabinet with the complementary report prepared by the committee he headed regarding the attack in Tyre. The Cabinet held a debate on this subject which was latter summed up by the prime minister. The prime minister said the Cabinet accepts the report and entrusts the defense minister and the chief of staff with the task of learning the appropriate lessons in the future. Findings about those who did not proceed properly would be implemented according to the IDF's standing procedures. The defense minister and the chief of staff reported that the Military Police is proceeding with an investigation into matters pertaining to it.

The prime minister today briefed the ministers about the talk between the French president and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi.

Minister Ben-Porat briefed the Cabinet about the convention of the world organization of Jews of Arab extraction which was held about 3 weeks ago in London.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr Aharon Fogel to the post of director of the Finance Ministry's Budget Department as of 1 January 1984. Mr Fogel will be replacing Mr Ya'aqov Gadish, who asked to be relieved of the post. Following a debate, the Cabinet decided to terminate the employment of Mr Me'ir Shamir as director of the Israel Land Authority. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i submitted his request to the Cabinet to replace the chairman of the board of directors of the Electric Company, Mr Hago'el. The debate on this issue was not concluded today.

Sources on 'Policy Vagueness'

TA181835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Interview with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by program moderator Gabi Qoren — live in the studio]

[Excerpt] [Qoren] The Cabinet was today briefed about what has been happening in Lebanon. The International Red Cross [IRC] ship arrived in Cyprus safely but, nevertheless, this afternoon we heard that Israeli Navy boats shelled Tripoli once again. How long will this so-called policy of vagueness continue? After all, the evacuation from Tripoli is imminent.

[Schiffer] Also this afternoon in a briefing to political correspondents, government sources said that Israel's policy of vagueness persists. However, details are emerging in the field. Indeed, it is possible to draw a picture at present of Israel's intentions. First of all, Israeli Navy boats shelled Tripoli this evening — this is an ongoing IDF activity which is probably anchored in Cabinet decisions. However, one should also refer to public statements made by Cabinet ministers. The prime minister was perhaps not pleased by these statements....

[Qoren — interrupting] Contradictory statements.

[Schiffer] By statements attributed to some ministers. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi was said to have stated that Israel would not attack foreign ships. Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said that the State of Israel is a law-abiding state and it would not violate international law and, subsequently, it would not attack ships. Indeed, it may be stated that if Yasir 'Arafat boards the Greek ships he and his men will leave Lebanon alive. However, as we have seen, Israeli Navy boats continue with their shellings. It should be noted that contacts between Israel and various countries continue in order to make plain the Israeli position. Meanwhile, Israel has only promised Italy that the ship it sent to evacuate the wounded terrorists would not come to any harm. Indeed, this ship arrived in Tripoli and evacuated the wounded. Israel regards this as a humanitarian move. However, Israel has not given an explicit promise to either France or any other country, but its policy may be inferred both from the public statements made by the ministers as well as from other moves.

Arens Interviewed on 'Arafat, Dayr al-Qamar

TA170923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal on 16 December; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Mr Arens, the terrorists who are loyal to 'Arafat are going to leave Tripoli in a few days, and Israel has not yet made its intentions clear regarding this exit.

[Arens] I understand this is a question, but despite the fact that we have not clarified our intentions to date, I assume that you do not expect me to make our intentions clear during this interview. I do not intend to do this. We have clarified our position beyond a shadow of a doubt. In our estimation, this is unheard of and unacceptable; it is difficult to believe that UN institutions or Western, civilized countries will extend aid to terrorist bodies that have perpetrated some of the worst terrorist acts, that perpetrated the terrorist act against the Jerusalem bus only a few days ago and even boasted of this, and that surely intend to continue terrorist acts. It is difficult to believe that the United Nations, or another country will extend aid to such a gang. These elements should have at least posed a condition; they should have said they are prepared to help on condition that 'Arafat and his men will lay down their arms and declare that from now on they will no longer use the weapon of terror. This was not done by these elements.

[Tal] If such conditions are presented, will Israel accept this?

[Arens] If the countries that talk of readiness to help the terrorists leave Tripoli pose such a condition, and if indeed 'Arafat announces that he will lay down his arms and that from now on he and his people will not employ terrorism, we will definitely view this as a change which will compel us to reconsider the situation.

[Tal] Can I infer from your remarks that Israel can prevent 'Arafat's exit from Tripoli?

[Arens] There is no doubt we can do this.

[Tal] Have we laid a naval siege on Tripoli?

[Arens] As I told you, I will not talk with you about our intentions and reveal to you matters which we have not revealed to date.

[Tal] How can we explain the presence of Israeli Navy vessels off the Tripoli shore, as well as the Israeli Navy activity, the shelling of terrorist targets in southern Tripoli, in the old city, and up north in the area of the port and the oil refineries?

[Arens] There should be no problem im explaining this. 'Arafat and his people, all groups of the PLO, are a terrorist organization, are an enemy of the State of Israel and all its citizens. We are talking of gangs that succeeded in inflicting casualties on us, in killing women and children. We are fighting them, and will continue to fight and strike them anywhere, wherever they may be.

[Tal] Mr Arens, why do we really care if these terrorists leave Tripoli and go hundreds of kilometers away from us, dispersed wherever they go, instead of a distance of 150 to 200 km away from our border?

[Arens] I have already explained. Elements that deal in terrorism and that intend to continue to do so in the future must not receive any aid from anybody that belongs in the camp of the civilized, free countries. Imagine to yourself, for the moment, a different case: A criminal or a terrorist perpetrates a terrorist act, kills women and children in a Western country, and a civilized country is prepared to transport him from one place to another so that he can continue with his terrorism from another place. This is inconceivable, at least to a person who lives in a democratic society and who shares the values existing in Israel and the free world.

[Tal] Mr Arens, you said that the IDF was at its best in the Dayr al-Qamar operation, and this is true almost for any operation carried out by the IDF. Can you say that this operation was a demonstrative act to a certain degree?

[Arens] This certainly was not the intention. A real and practical humanitarian goal was involved here, evacuating the Lebanese Forces without fighting, and enabling the refugees who wanted to get out of there to do so. I think we can take pride in this operation and in achieving this goal.

[Tal] I was in Dayr al-Qamar, and my impression was that a siege in the known sense of the word did not exist there.

[Arens] If you mean that the place was not sealed off and that a situation in which no one, not even a cat, could get out of there, did not exist, I believe you are right. We know of people who managed to escape from there. At the same time, I would say this was a situation that did not allow the elderly, women, and children, without the escort of fighters, to take to the road and try to cross the Druze lines.

[Tal] A grave picture was depicted by the Christians a few weeks ago, and accordingly the IDF deployed itself. This operation was cancelled once. After all, it had been slated to take place earlier. Anyway, time had gone by and after we entered the place it emerged that the picture was not exactly as presented. There were not so many refugees there who wanted to leave. We are familiar with the pictures of siege from the time of Saigon and Dien Bien Phu — well, this was not the case in Dayr al-Qamar. People did not pounce on the buses brought to them, and even the rice brought into the town by the International Red Cross [IRC] was wasted on the IDF soldiers.

[Arens] Each place has its troubles. It is not necessary to compare this case to what took place in Saigon and Dien Bien Phu. There were enough atrocities in the Ash-Shuf region. I do not think they should be minimized; there were enough of them. According to our assessment, several hundred refugees left Dayr al-Qamar. Nobody compelled them to do so. They could leave only as a result of the IDF operation. I assume that more will leave this town. It is a fact that for a number of months there were thousands of refugees in Dayr al-Qamar exposed to quite unpleasant living conditions. They lived in churches and in all kinds of provisionary structures, with food brought in from the outside by the IRC. There is no reason for me to depict the situation as worse than it was. However, I do not think any of us would like to find himself in such a situation, or to have our families in such a situation.

[Tal] Still, why was it the IDF had to organize this evacuation, with all the heavy expenditure and considerable risk involved? Why could this not be done by a body such as the UN organization, lending its aegis to the evacuation, or by a country such as France, safeguarding this evacuation just as it intends to do with regard to 'Arafat's evacuation?

[Arens] Theoretically, many bodies could certainly have done this. The fact is that only one element, the IDF, was capable of carrying this out. I am not talking here of our logistical ability, which is not small as you know; I am rather trying to emphasize the fact that it was only we who enjoyed the needed trust of both the Christians and Druze.

[Tal] What is expected for the people who remain in this town, the Christians without a defensive force, without the Phalangists?

[Arens] This greatly depends on the Druze position. We hope the evacuation contributed to improving relations between Christians and Druze. I certainly am hopeful and count on there not being any Druze military action against Dayr al-Qamar.

[Tal] Can we give guarantees to the Christians that they will not come to any harm after we evacuate the Phalangists?

[Arens] We are not in the business [last word in English] of giving guarantees to other elements.

Dayr al-Qamar Evacuation Continues

TA181141 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] The evacuation of Christian refugees from the Ash-Shuf mountain town of Dayr al-Qamar resumed this morning. It was stopped over the weekend after a convoy came under fire. According to the Phalangist radio station, the International Red Cross this morning took out 500 refugees. According to Israeli military sources, the IDF is no longer stationing troops along the evacuation route, or providing close escort for the convoy as it did at the beginning of the evacuation last Thursday. According to the agreement worked out, the International Red Cross is supervising the evacuation of civilians from the town. One military source said that a small number of Israeli patrols were scattered in the area in order to demonstrate IDF presence during the evacuation.

Druze Attack IRC Convoy

TA181522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] This afternoon, hundreds of Druze attacked two International Red Cross [IRC] buses who were driving Christian refugees from Dayr al-Qamar to Beirut. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Druze surrounded the buses, fired shots in the air, threw stones, and yelled obscenities. Our correspondent points out that the IRC convoy, which left Dayr al-Qamar for Jazzin under the IDF's aegis this morning, continued on its way without any problems.

Druze Shelling Reported

TA191240 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1232 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio station reports that for the first time in a long while, the Druze directed small arms fire at noon toward Dayr al-Qamar, which is being evacuated by many of its residents. The fire was directed from the Druze village of Bayt ad-Din. No casualties have been reported. An additional 500 residents left Dayr al-Qamar today. Yesterday, as may be recalled, the Druze attacked a convoy of Christian evacuees, which was travelling through Kafr Him, with small arms fire and stones. There were no casualties in that incident.

Lubrani Comments on Evacuation

TA172006 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, played a key role in lifting the siege on Dayr al-Qamar. Lubrani told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the Dayr al-Qamar affair has not yet ended.

[Begin recording] [Lubrani] First of all, we have got another number of days before all those who want to leave Dayr al-Qamar will have been evacuated and once that happens we will have to see what will happen next. We hope that the original residents of Dayr al-Qamar who remain living there and the security forces, the (?tense) security forces, will feel comfortable in having access to their sources of supplies as was agreed and that a degree of normality will be introduced into the area. If this will happen then the Dayr al-Qamar problem will have resolved itself.

Now, I for one believe that if that will happen, as I hope it will, we will possibly be able to exploit the goodwill expressed and manifested by all parties concerned to try and solve some additional local problems between the Druze and the government and the Christian residents in the area. So that perhaps we see a very slow and perhaps even low-profile kind of process start by which local festering problems could be solved without much fanfare and sensationalism.

[Ben-'Ami] But do you see what happened this week at Dayr al-Qamar as a vindication of the Israeli policy of keeping in touch with all communities, trying to foster relations with all communities?

[Lubrani] Absolutely yes. I think that without playing on the Druze accord we would not have been able to relieve Dayr al-Qamar at all. What we are trying to do is not only balance, but we are trying to do what we feel is best for Lebanon and its leadership and I think that this policy of ours will eventually be vindicated completely not only by the international community but in particular by the Christian community in Lebanon. [end recording]

Levi Extends French Visit for 'Political Meeting'

TA181610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has extended his visit to France by another 24 hours and will be returning to Israel tomorrow.

The spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Paris, Nisim Taito, said that Minister Levi had cancelled an interview on the French radio due to a political meeting but he refused to elaborate.

Nevertheless, the spokesman denied reports in France that David Levi had conferred with Jordanian King Husayn in Paris last week.

Levi-Husayn Meeting Rumored

TA181838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Did he or did he not meet? Rumors are increasing about a meeting in Paris between Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Jordanian King Husayn. A French Government source told our correspondent that such a meeting had indeed taken place this afternoon. Our correspondent Rafi Matar reports from Paris:

[Begin Matar recording] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi was supposed to give an interview to Radio Monte Carlo at around 1200 today. However, at the last moment, the spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Paris, Nisim Taito, informed Monte Carlo Radio that the interview had been cancelled and that the deputy prime minister would not be able to come, but he did not give an official reason.

I was told by Radio Monte Carlo that the embassy's spokesman had told them that the Israeli Deputy Prime Minister was holding important talks with Arab figures in Paris.

David Levi had been scheduled to fly to Israel aboard an El Al plane, the embassy's spokesman told me this morning. However, the director of Levi's office told me that Levi was staying in Paris for insignificant private business and for family meetings.

In reply to my question a few minutes ago, the deputy prime minister denied that he had held a talk with King Husayn. Levi told me: These are unfounded speculations. As for the reasons for his visit in Paris, David Levi told me: I do not have to give anybody any reasons for travelling tomorrow.

The director of the minister's office tried to persuade me not to publish this report, claiming that these rumors were harmful to the minister and to Israel. It has also been learned that the deputy prime minister will this evening confer with the Israeli ambassador in France, 'Ovadya Sofer, to brief him about the contacts he held today. [end recording]

Political circles in Jerusalem also describe the report about a meeting between Husayn and Levi as absurd, our political correspondent reports.

Levi-Shamir 'Understanding' on Ministry Post

TA161123 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Paris — The problem of Deputy Prime Minister David Levi's appointment as foreign minister has been solved: "Yitzhaq Shamir and I have achieved an understanding. All that is left is to decide is the date, within 3 to 4 months." These remarks are attributed to the deputy prime minister in an interview that appeared yesterday in *LIBERATION*.

However, David Levi denies having mentioned the date of his appointment, but only an "understanding with Shamir." The correspondent who interviewed him has confirmed her version, which was taped. She told us that Levi really did tell her he would be appointed foreign minister "within 3 to 4 months." In any event, the deputy prime minister is leaving no doubts here that he is already the "foreign minister-designate."

During his visit to Geneva and Paris, David Levi ran into problems with political statements that appeared under his name, but which he later denied. *LE MONDE* quoted him as saying that Israel "had no intention of attacking" Tripoli, something he denies having said, and later amended with the declaration that "Israel is not revealing in advance what it intends to do."

David Kimche Comments on Syria, Egypt

TA161715 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1425 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 16 Dec (ITIM) — The Syrian assessment was that Israel had become a paper tiger, since everyone in the country wanted us to get out of Lebanon. However, in the last month the Syrians lost the initiative they held in Lebanon — Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche stated on Friday in a lecture to the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv.

The reasons for the loss of the Syrian initiative, said the director general of the Foreign Ministry, are linked mainly with the Geneva talks, in which almost all the factions in Lebanon participated. "The Salvation Front, which Syria was certain would operate on its behalf in these talks, had turned away from the Syrians. The Syrians found they did not have theirautomatic support in all they said or did. For its part, the Soviet Union made it clear to the Syrians that it does not want the Syrians to initiate a war, in order not to get entangled with Israel or the United States. The Lebanese president as well did not succumb to Syrian dictates, and Israel shelled terrorist bases. Then, the Syrians found out that Israel is not a paper tiger," he said.

Mr Kimche went on to say that the tough U.S. stand also contributed toward the Syrians losing the initiative. On top of this, the powerful Syrian leader, Al-Asad, suffered a heart attack and was unconscious for several days. This situation dramatically affected the Syrians self-confidence.

Mr Kimche believes that the Syrians will not renew the war in Lebanon: "They are ready to fight in Lebanon until the last Palestinian and Druze," he said.

"The Druze achieved their objective when they drove the Christians from the Ash-Shuf mountains and they have no reason to fight today against President al-Jumayyil in Beirut. The Palestinians are preoccupied with themselves, and we are not sorry about it. It has become apparent that Syria no longer holds all the cards. The Americans also now see the situation in Lebanon correctly: No compromises, no backing down; their reactions are hard and tough. This is the way Syria must be treated," Kimche added.

Speaking about relations with Egypt, the director general of the Foreign Ministry said that it is "a question of a half-empty or a half-full cup." The fact that our ambassador travels to his office in Cairo with the Israeli flag displayed on his car and no one harms him, the fact that there are thousands of Israeli tourists in Egypt and there have been no acts of hostility, this is the half of the cup that is full. We would like the cup to be full and for no brutal commentaries against us to appear in the Egyptian press; eventually this will indeed come to be."

Mr Kimche said that it must not be forgotten that a large proportion of the Egyptian people has some sort of ties with the Arab countries. The intellectual stratum in its entirety has ties with the Arab countries and this explains this attitude toward us. The Egyptians are very eager to return to the lap of the Arab nation and they are doing all they can to achieve it," he commented.

Donald Rumsfeld Meets Peres, Shamir

TA161753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres conferred this evening with President Reagan's envoy to the Middle East, Donald Rumsfeld. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports this was a tete-a-tete which lasted about 2 hours. No details were disclosed about the content of the meeting. This morning, Donald Rumsfeld conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also in a tete-a-tete meeting.

Rumsfeld Talks Reported

TA180653 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] There is no chance of changing the Syrians refusal to leave Lebanon in the near future. This is indicated by reports given by U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld to the prime minister and defense minister after he returned from Damascus. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that a joint Israeli-U.S.-Lebanese committee will shortly be set up to discuss ways of resolving the crisis in Lebanon. 'Oz Frankel is in the studio:

[Frankel — live] It was said in Jerusalem at the end of the week that Israel may now be returning to square one. At the end of 1982, we began negotiations with the Lebanese, and later it transpired that Amin al-Jumayyil is not exactly the master in Lebanon. Now, in view of the Syrian refusal to start serious deliberations, Israel, the United States, and Lebanon are returning to square one: Negotiations among themselves.

Rumsfeld held two long talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam in Damascus. In Jerusalem, the U.S. envoy said the Syrians are indeed prepared to talk with official U.S. representatives, but this may be a result of a love for U.S. courting and not a sincere desire to start real negotiations. It does not seem that Damascus is willing to change positions and discuss the exit of its forces from Lebanon.

A discussion will now apparently begin among Israel, the United States, and Lebanon in the framework of one or more joint committees. We have learned that for the time being it will be a secret discussion although, in due course, an official, open framework will emerge. The new body will discuss ways to speed up the exit of foreign forces, the possibility of increasing Al-

Jumayyil's powers in southern Lebanon, and implementation of parts of the Israeli-Lebanese agreements which do not require Syrian approval, especially in the security sphere.

A senior political element told us this does not mean that the agreement signed on 17 May between Israel and Lebanon will be open for renewed discussion. It should be mentioned that Israel has long urged the United States to persuade Al-Jumayyil to hold a dialogue with Israel and to establish a joint framework for deliberations. It now seems that the Americans bought the idea, but again it is greatly doubted whether the Lebanese Government is the element with which one should talk in order to promote a solution in Lebanon.

As for the U.S. stance, a source which is well informed about this told us that President Reagan is very shortly going to announce his candidacy for another term in the White House, and upon this announcement the Americans will step up their efforts to find an arrangement making it possible to withdraw the U.S. Marines from Beirut as soon as possible, maybe even in return for certain concessions.

According to this source, the United States is involved in 'Arafat's evacuation form Tripoli because it believes that the evacuation will accelerate the Lebanese negotiations. The United States, he added, is well aware of the fact that the evacuation is really an achievement for the Syrians and their allies in Lebanon.

The question of 'Arafat's evacuation did not apparently feature prominently in Rumsfeld's talks in Jerusalem. Israel has indded taken care to keep its intentions regarding 'Arafat's evacuation in the dark, and to take full advantage of the uncertainty created by the Israeli Navy shellings on Tripoli, but it now seems that the Israeli role in that arena is over. It was already decided in Jerusalem in the middle of last week that the foreign ships which will evacuate the terrorists will not be attacked. As a matter of fact, a real discussion of this possibility has never taken place.

Further on Rumsfeld Talks

TA181131 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has not yet recovered and works only an hour or two daily. This was reported by U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld in the talks he held in Israel at the end of the week. Rumsfeld was going to meet with President al-Asad in Damascus, but he was informed that the Syrian president was not feeling well and would return to work full time only in January. Rumsfeld had to settle for a long meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam.

In his talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, as well as with MK Shim'on Peres, Rumsfeld gave details about the meeting with the Syrian foreign minister, and expressed the opinion that the Syrians will ultimately agree to enter political negotiations on the removal of their forces from Lebanon.

At the request of the U.S. envoy, all political talks were held tete-a-tete and no minutes were taken. It has been learned, however, that the latest talks do not herald a thaw in the freeze developing in the contacts on the removal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Sources Deny Secret Understanding With U.S.

TA190734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Reliable sources who accompanied the prime minister on his U.S. trip totally deny the report published in *TIME* magazine that Shamir and Reagan reached a secret understanding according to which the Americans will defend the Persian Gulf Emirates against Iran, while Israel will prevent the danger to Lebanon from the direction of Syria.

The *TIME* report also said that the prime minister promised Reagan that he would try to convince U.S. Jewish organizations not to resist Reagan's efforts to support moderate Arab countries. As mentioned above, the Jerusalem sources told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that this report is totally unfounded.

Reportage on 5-Nation Summit Meeting in Bissau

Preparatory Conference Ends

LD172039 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The ministerial conference involving five Portuguese-speaking African countries, held in preparation for a 2-day summit of Angolan, Mozambique, Cape Verdian, and Sao Tome and Principe heads of state, has ended in Bissau. The proceedings of the 3-day ministerial meeting were marked by an identity of viewpoints on international issues and by a desire to improve cooperation among the five states.

Closing the preparatory conference, Guinea-Bissau Foreign Minister Fidelis Cabral de Almada underscored the spirit of fraternity and solidarity that characterized the conference proceedings. The proposals approved by the preparatory conference are to be submitted to the summit of the five heads of state, due to open in Bissau tomorrow afternoon.

One of the agreements under consideration provides for cooperation in consular and diplomatic matters, and even calls for joint diplomatic representation abroad.

The heads of state of Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe were due in Bissau this afternoon.

Recommendations Noted

LD180009 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2330 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A 3-day ministerial meeting of five Portuguese-speaking African countries has ended in Bissau. The meeting was held in preparation for a 2-day summit involving the heads of state of Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe, scheduled to open tomorrow in the Guinea-Bissau capital.

The ministers reaffirmed their support for Angola and Mozambique, victims of racist acts of aggression by South Africa, and for the nationalist movements in Namibia and in South Africa itself. They demanded that Namibia's independence not be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

They also recommended that Morocco and the Polisario hold direct talks to resolve the Western Sahara issue.

Vieira Comments on Conference

AB161100 Luanda ANGOP in French 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Bissau, 15 Dec (ANGOP) — Lieutenant General Joao Bernardo Vieira, secretary general of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde [PAIGC] and chairman of the Guinea-Bissau Revolutionary Council, declared in Bissau on Tuesday that his country is greatly concerned about the acts of aggression perpetrated against Angola by South Africa and its puppet gangs.

Speaking to ANGOP on the occasion of the ministerial conference held in preparation for the upcoming summit involving the Portuguese-speaking African countries, the Guinea-Bissau head of state added that the Angolan people can always count — as they did before — on the support of their brothers in Guinea-Bissau, who are prepared to fight beside them in defense of their just cause.

Concerning the policy of linkage — making Namibia's independence conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola — Nino Vieira stated that South Africa is destined to grant independence to the Namibian people and that Angola is answerable to no one concerning the presence or withdrawal of the internationalist troops on its territory.

For President Nino Vieira, Agostinho Neto and Amilcar Cabral began by fighting a common battle against the oppressor. Now that the oppressor has been defeated, we must walk side by side with the Angolan people in new, more or less difficult battles against our underdevelopment.

Lt Gen Nino Vieira described the upcoming five-party summit as a very important event for Guinea-Bissau. It will provide yet another opportunity to the masses, the party, and the government to express their desire to strengthen the ties of cooperation at all levels with Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Our past ties must be strengthened. In playing host to its former comrades-in-arms, Guinea-Bissau seeks to be fully cooperative so that the summit may adopt concrete measures for cooperation among member countries, he stated.

The Guinea-Bissau head of state added: The people of Guinea-Bissau are committed to the success of the upcoming summit, and will do everything to ensure the achievement of the proposed objectives. We hope that the cooperation among us will be further strengthened in the interest of our respective countries, he declared.

On the home front, the PAIGC secretary general spoke of certain measures which have been drafted in connection with the crisis his country is experiencing, particularly the important 4-year economic stability program. In this regard, he indicated that significant measures have already been taken in relation to the program. He also noted that the implementation phase will begin by the end of the year.

Some people may contend that these measures are harsh. But those of us who have taken them are aware that they are austerity measures which can lead us out of the economic crisis being faced by our country. This crisis, the leader of Guinea-Bissau stated, has forced us to devise readjustment measures. He added that his country was prepared to make every sacrifice, since it realizes that the battle for economic recovery can only be won with these austerity measures.

He concluded by commenting on the 4-year development program, the first ever drawn up in his country. He stated that apart from the economic stability program being prepared in the country, a conference will be held in Geneva next February or March and will be attended by a large number of investors. Efforts will be made during the meeting to determine who we can count on for the funding of the 4-year program.

Summit Meeting Opens

AB181339 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Bissau, Dec 18 (AFP) — The fourth meeting of heads of state of Africa's five Portuguese-speaking countries opened here today.

Chaired by Guinea-Bissau President General Joao Bernardo Vieira, the summit also groups Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, Samora Machel of Mozambique and Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe.

The conference, which ends tomorrow, is to discuss ways of developing cooperation among the participants and the international situation, notably in southern Africa and East Timor.

Maputo Reports Summit Opening

MB190740 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] The fourth summit meeting of the heads of state of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries began in Guinea-Bissau early this afternoon. The Mozambique delegation is led by President Samora Machel and includes Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, the deputy ministers of foreign trade and merchant navy, and other high-ranking officials of the justice and economic sectors.

On his arrival in Bissau, Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira spoke to the media on behalf of the visiting heads of state, expressing satisfaction at being on Guinean soil. This is the first visit by President Aristides Pereira to Guinea-Bissau since the 14 November movement toppled Luis Cabral.

The summit was preceded by a ministerial conference which approved the four reports submitted by the commissions formed during the previous summit. The commissions cover the areas of transportation, trade, finance, banking, insurance, research, cadre training, and cultural activities, in addition to the recently forced commission on law, justice, and administration.

Mozambique was represented at the preparatory ministerial conference by Minister Jacinto Veloso, who left Bissau yesterday.

ALGERIA

FLN Central Committee Receives CPSU Message

LD172108 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The FLN Central Committee has received a message from the CPSU. The message was delivered by the Soviet ambassador to Algeria, who was received this morning by Brother Kamal Bushamah, member of the FLN Central Committee and of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat.

LIBYA

Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Arrives 16 December

LD161424 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed at Tripoli International Airport by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, several members of the General People's Congress, members of the Arab diplomatic corps in Libya, and some officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD162251 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil this afternoon. During their long meeting, they studied the (?difficult) Lebanese situation, the circumstances prevailing in Lebanon, and the fierce Zionist-imperialist struggle to tear Lebanon apart as a first step in efforts to harm the Arab nation and expose it to danger.

It was stressed at the meeting, which was attended by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, that there is a joint desire to cooperate and consult, and that decisive solutions which will finally guarantee stability on sound, democratic foundations must be achieved at the local level in Lebanon.

Also stressed was the need to stop aggression — as represented in the shelling conducted by the U.S. and NATO navy and air force. The need to work earnestly at the Arab and international levels to secure the withdrawal of foreign occupation forces was similarly highlighted, as was the need to make it clear that Lebanon, with its Arab people and Arab soil, will not agree to the presence of any invading forces on its soil.

Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil left Tripoli this evening after a short visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives SFRY Ambassador

LD182001 Tripoli JANA in English 1845 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi al Awal 13, Dec 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The revolution's leader received the Yugoslav ambassador to the Jamahiriyah who conveyed a verbal message from the collective Yugoslav Presidency on current international conditions and cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia.

Commentary Calls Export Ban 'Hostile Measure'

LD181536 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a memorandum published yesterday by *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, U.S. President Reagan called upon the U.S. State Department to urge other countries, primarily those in WesternEurope, to join the ban imposed on the export of equipment to the Jamahiriyah. He also used this memorandum to draw the attention of his administration's secretaries of state, defense, and commerce to the need to — as he said — suspend the issuing of licenses for the export of (?oil) intended for use in Libya.

At this point — in a new development in the escalation of the waves of blatant aggression and in a new manifestation of America's hostility toward Libya — Reagan himself has taken charge of this new terror campaign, which is nurtured by deep-rooted hostility and rancor. Reagan's step may possibly supplement other similar measures, which include those establishing the siege, the economic boycott, the extensive propaganda war, the prevention of Libyan Arab students from continuing their studies in America, and the stoppage of shipments of medicine and medical and agricultural equipment.

American hostility does not stop there. With its 6th Fleet, Washington has committed violations and more than once tried to threaten this people with its repeated rampages in our domestic waters of the Gulf of Sidra. The aim has always remained the same: That is, to strike at the Libyan Arab people and their revolution, and to shake their stability in both the economic and security spheres. Observers have also stressed the fact that Reagan is using this step as a means to directly involve Washington's allies, the European governments, in the implementation of this hostile, terrorist measure against the Libyan people. The prevailing opinion in these quarters is that such a step can be explained only as an act whose objective is to harm Europe's interests. Moreover, this call constitutes a provocation for the European [words indistinct] which the United States wants them to sacrifice their interests in submission to the irresponsible whims of America.

In any event, such a measure will be directed not only at the Libyan Arab people, but against the governments of Western Europe as well. We now call upon these governments to think

1,000 times before adopting any measure likely to achieve what Washington wants to achieve, something which will definitely have repercussions on their economic cooperation with both the Jamahiriyah, and with the whole Arab homeland as well.

Maltese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC190755 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Maltese Foreign Minister Dr Alex Scebbera Trigona arrived in Tripoli last night for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Armed Forces Commander Receives Palestinians

LD190859 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA) — Yesterday evening, Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received Fadl Shurur, member of the PFLP — the General Command — and Abu 'Ali Mahdi, one of the leaders of the new revolutionary movement in Fatah who are on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Departs 16 December

LD161415 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, Dec 16 [MAP] — President Amin al-Jumayyil of Lebanon left Rabat this Friday morning at the end of a working visit to Morocco during which he met with King Hassan II. The president of Lebanon was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Al-Qadhdhafi, Reagan Messages

LD162023 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba and Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi have reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly in the Palestinian arena. They also discussed conditions in the Arab Maghreb following Mauritania's accession to the Treaty of Fraternity and Accord signed between Tunisia and Algeria last March. After reviewing Libyan-Tunisian relations with the president, the foreign minister conveyed to him a verbal message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and delivered a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Prime Minister Receives Nayif Hawatimah

LD162032 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 16 Dec (TAP) — Yesterday, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received the Palestinian fighter Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Mzali confirmed Tunisia's unchanged stance toward the PLO as a strong organization devoted to solidarity and independence. He also confirmed Tunisia's rejection of any attempt to either weaken the Palestinian revolution and the PLO, or to scatter its forces.

The Tunisian prime minister declared that Tunisia, its president, its government, and its people unreservedly support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to build an independent state in their national territory from which they have been expelled.

Nayif Hawatimah said: "We are working hard to put an end to the worsening of relations among the brothers in arms so that the forces of the PLO, those of Syria, and those of the Lebanese nationalists may unite in opposition to the enemy forces, which want to (?do away with) the right of the Palestinian people to exist, their right to return to their country, their right to self-determination, and their right to recover their independence."

Bourguiba Receives USSR Minister 8 December

PM161101 Tunis L'ACTION in French 9 Dec 83 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Message of Esteem from President Andropov to the Head of State"]

[Text] President Bourguiba met yesterday morning at the Carthage Palace with Mr Timofey Guzhenko, Soviet minister of the maritime fleet, in the presence of Transport and Communications Minister Brahim Khouadja, and USSR Ambassador to Tunis Vsevolod Kizichenko.

The Soviet minister told the head of state of the esteem in which he is held by the Soviet leadership, headed by Mr Yuriy Andropov. He also expressed their best wishes for the supreme combatant's good health and happiness.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the excellent state of bilateral cooperation.

On that occasion, the head of state was informed of the agreement which will be concluded between Tunisia and the USSR in the maritime transport sector. In this connection, the supreme combatant stressed the need to attach greater importance to cadre training in the area of advanced technology within the framework of consolidating bilateral cooperation.

Maritime Transport Agreement Signed

PM161718 Tunis L'ACTION in French 12 Dec 83 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Toward the Establishment of a Regular Line Between Tunisian and Soviet Ports"]

[Text] Transport and Communications Minister Brahim Khouadja and T.B. Guzhneko, Soviet deputy prime minister [as published] and minister of the maritime fleet, signed a maritime transport agreement at the ministry on Saturday in the presence of members of the two delegations and of Soviet Ambassador to Tunis Vsevolod Kizichenko.

Mr Brahim Khouadja opened his speech by expressing his satisfaction at the signing of this agreement, which, he explained, crowns a year of effort by the Tunisian and Soviet delegations.

The transport and communications minister also discussed the different aspects of cooperation in the maritime sector — aspects established by the two countries' delegations during the Soviet maritime fleet minister's visit to Tunisia.

In this respect, Mr Khouadja explained that Tunisia and the USSR have agreed to develop cooperation in the merchant marine sector, with particular emphasis on the following spheres:

— Cooperation in establishing a regular line between Tunisian and Soviet ports.

— Cooperation in the sphere of advanced maritime training.

— Cooperation in planning the port workers training center and the naval repair center.

— Cooperation between the merchant marine administration and the port authorities.

For his part, Mr Guzhenko declared that the signing of this agreement marks an important date in bilateral cooperation related to the merchant marine. He added that this cooperation has been established on an equal footing.

ETHIOPIA

Bulgarian Delegation Holds Talks With COPWE

Arrives 13 Dec

EA141436 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] A three-man delegation headed by Comrade Colonel General Velko Palin, member of the Central Committee of Bulgaria Communist Party and head of the Military and Administrative Department of the Central Committee of the party, arrived in Addis Ababa today for a 5-day working visit. During its stay the Bulgarian delegation will hold talks with COPWE officials on relations between COPWE and the Bulgarian CP.

Gen Palin Praises Talks

EA171934 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The three-man Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] delegation returned home today after a 4-day working visit to Socialist Ethiopia. The delegation, led by Comrade Colonel General Velko Palin, BCP Central Committee member and head of Military Department of the party Central Committee, was seen off at Debre Zeit by Comrade Bezuayehu Alemayehu, candidate member of the COPWE Central Committee and deputy head of the Justice, Welfare, Admininistration and Defense Department of the COPWE Central Committee; Bulgarian ambassador to Socialist Ethiopia, Comrade Georgi Petrov Kusov; and other embassy officials.

In a statement before leaving, Comrade Col Gen Palin said he was impressed by the Ethiopian revolution's political, economic, and social victories under the leadership of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of COPWE and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Comrade Col Gen Velko Palin said the efforts of the Ethiopian working people over the past few years of revolution, their respect for the country's unity, and their nation-building has been even greater than he expected. He added that what he saw and the briefings he was given during his 4-day stay gave him full understanding of the Ethiopian revolution's path and direction. He also said his talks with Comrades Fisseha Desta, deputy secretary general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and member of the COPWE Executive Committee, and Bezuayehu Alemayehu and other comrades had been fruitful. He expressed confidence that bilateral cooperation between the peoples, governments, and political organizations of the two countries will be further extended.

Visa, Cooperation Agreements Signed with PDRY

EA152306 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Socialist Ethiopia and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen today signed an agreement to enable travelers holding diplomatic, special, or service passports from their countries to enter the corresponding country without a visa. In addition, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed a protocol agreement that will further strengthen bilateral cooperation. At a ceremony at the foreign ministry conference hall, Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of foreign affairs and COPWE Central Committee member, signed the 5-year visa agreement and the 2-year protocol agreement on behalf of Socialist Ethiopia. Comrade Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, Central Committee member of the Yemen Socialist Party and minister of foreign affairs, signed on behalf of the PDRY.

Eritrean Rebels Claim Killing 55 Soldiers

EA171549 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Dibarwa — Units of our mobile force have attacked enemy forces stationed at Geza Lamba and Enda Mariam in Dibarwa.

In this 14-hour-long successful offensive, which was carried out Wednesday [14 December] from 1700 to 2400, our heroic comrades killed 55 Ethiopian soldiers, wounded more than 60 and destroyed a large quantity of enemy property in the camps. They also captured the Geza Lamba and Enda Mariam camps.

KENYA

Foreign Minister Mwangale Receives SWAPO Leader

EA162049 Nairobi KNA in English 1545 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Nairobi: Kenya is committed to the independence of Namibia and would support her to gain freedom and independence. This was stated today by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, when he received at his office the president of South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Mr Sam Nujoma.

Mr Mwangale reiterated Kenya's stand on the Namibian issue by saying that Kenya recognizes SWAPO as the sole and legitimate representative of the people of Namibia. Mr Mwangale said that independence for Namibia will only be achieved through fighting, for this is the only language the racist regime of South Africa would understand.

Saying that President Moi is totally committed to the freedom and independence of the people of Namibia, Mr Mwangale told Mr Nujoma that attempts by South Africa to hold multi-party talks on Namibia's independence will not succeed unless SWAPO was fully represented at independence talks as the sole representative of the Namibian people. Attempts by South Africa to call for multi-party talks was aimed at hoodwinking public opinion and Kenya rejects such arrangements, Mr Mwangale said.

The minister then handed over three air tickets to Mr Nujoma and his entourage to visit a number of countries in connection with the Namibian issue.

Thanking the Kenya Government for its consistent stand over the Namibian matter, Mr Nujoma congratulated the people of

Kenya for the excellent manner in which they conducted their 20th anniversary of independence.

Mr Nujoma thanked President Moi for the support he has continued to give the people of Namibia in their struggle for the independence of their country and for the role he had taken at the OAU, UN and Commonwealth meetings. Reiterating SWAPO's stand Mr Nujoma said that whereas UN Resolution 435 served as the basis for negotiation for Namibia's independence, his organization had consistently stated that it was prepared to sign a cease-fire agreement so that negotiations for Namibia's independence can commence. SWAPO was surprised that the South African regime had not taken this cease-fire offer seriously and regretted that South Africa had engaged in the practice of killing intellectuals from Namibia each time there were attacks on Namibian soil by what South Africa termed as terrorists. The racists are doing this because they claim the intellectuals support SWAPO.

The meeting was attended by SWAPO's chief representative in East Africa, Mr Nefumbo Ndaitwah, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Nujoma has toured a number of industries in Kenya and said he was very much impressed by the quality and quantity of Kenya's manufactured goods.

Official Warns Against Cattle Raids, Tribal Conflict

EA170029 Nairobi KNA in English 1910 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Mandera: The Nuralle and Garre ethnic groups of Mandeera district have been ordered to stop cattle raids and tribal conflicts immediately or else the government will not hesitate to crush any offensive ethnic group which is not ready to abide with the law.

Minister of State in the Office of the President Mr Hussein Maalin Mohamed gave the order yesterday when he addressed leaders in Mandera Country Council Chambers. Mr Mohamed also directed residents of the district who might have migrated to neighbouring countries or districts due to fear of their lives or of their animals being stolen to report back to their local chiefs within seven days. The minister assured the immigrants that the government will protect them and their property, adding that every citizen had equal rights and therefore there was no cause for them to run away from their district.

Mr Mohamed said that the government was viewing the activities seriously and warned that no more skirmishes or bloodshed will be tolerated. The government has been merciful, but it will not hesitate to strike since you have refused to answer to the peace call, he told them.

The minister, who is in charge of provincial administration and internal security, directed elders and local leaders in the district to embark on a districtwide peace crusade and also ensure that the district was void of aliens.

Mr Mohamed gave those with illegally acquired firearms one week to surrender them to the authorities; otherwise the government will deal with them severely.

The minister, who was accompanied by an assistant minister for labor, Mr Ahmed Abdi Ogle; northeastern provincial commissioner, Mr Benson Kaaria; and MP's from Wajir, Garissa and Mandera districts, blamed the leaders for any bloodshed in the district, observing that the leaders never told the truth and upset contrary to resolutions passed during leaders meetings. [sentence as received]

The leaders read a memorandum drawn up by elders and the local leaders of different ethnic groups in the district in a bid to restore law and order.

The northeastern provincial commissioner, Mr Benson Kaaria, thanked the minister and his entourage for touring the district and challenged the residents to adhere to their promise of keeping peace in the district.

Mr Kaaria reminded them that he was fed up with empty words and warned them not to repeat the same to the minister, because the government will not stand by and watch wanton destruction of human life.

TANZANIA

Mozambique Interior Minister on 'Special Visit'

EA162141 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The Mozambican minister of interior, Ndugu Armando Guebuza, who is leading an eight-man delegation, arrived in Dar es Salaam today for a special visit to Tanzania.

The minister for home affairs, Ndugu Salimin Armour, who met the Mozambican minister at the airport, said the team will be in the country until 21 December.

Others in the delegation are Ndugu Sebastiao Mabote, minister for defense and chief of the defense forces. [sentence as heard]

CAMEROON

Belgian Government To Build Hospital in Yaounde
AB161825 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Belgian Government has revealed it will construct a new general hospital for Yaounde. The revelation was made yesterday by the head of the Belgian delegation to the Cameroon-Belgium joint commission that just ended its 3 days of deliberations in Yaounde.

CHAD

Habre Leaves for UDEAC Meeting in CAR
AB190902 Paris AFP in French 1317 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 Dec (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre left Ndjamena on Sunday morning for Bangui (CAR) where the summit meeting of heads of state of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) will begin on Monday.

The Chadian head of state is leading a 15-member delegation that includes four ministers: Elie Romba (finance); Ali Djalbord Diard (economy); Joseph Yodeyman (planning), and Oudalbaye Naham (justice). A co-founding member of the UDEAC, which was established in 1966, Chad left the organization 2 years after its creation because it believed that its interests were "endangered" within the union.

Official sources in Ndjamena say that the issue of Chad's return to UDEAC is "under study."

However, it does not seem certain that Chad will be readmitted into the union during the 19th summit, because, according to observers in Ndjamena, Chad's complaints against its UDEAC partners are "very important."

Foreign Minister on OAU Reconciliation Meeting
LD161637 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Returning from Bangladesh where he has just taken part in the Islamic Ministerial Conference, Mr Idriss Miskine, Chad minister of foreign affairs, is passing through Paris. In an exclusive interview granted to Charles (Lescot) for Radio France International, Mr Miskine in particular expressed his pleasure at the decision of the Dhaka meeting to place the Chad conflict before the Islamic summit in Casablanca next month. He also confirmed that President Hissein Habre will be going to Addis Ababa on 9 January for the next reconciliation conference set up by the OAU.

[Begin recording] [Miskine] I can assure you that the Chad Government, in the person of its head of state Comrade Hissein Habre, will be present on 9 January in Addis Ababa.

[(Lescot)] Have you already had preliminary contacts with Goukouni's men?

[Miskine] We have made great efforts in this regard to see, in an informal way, what we could do. But unfortunately they have not understood the interest of this preliminary meeting, which would certainly have enabled us to approach one another, to bring our ideas closer, to see what we could discuss afterward at the Addis Ababa meeting. But unfortunately they did not respond to the appeal.

[(Lescot)] How do you esteem the role played by the current president of the OAU?

[Miskine] To my knowledge the [word indistinct] OAU Chairman Mengistu is working really very sincerely in this framework in order that peace might come to Chad. And he has no ulterior motive. And I hope I am not deceived, since when I had occasion to meet him he was really very sincere and wants to see in this regard that the Chadians themselves, without outside interference, should be able to find a solution to the drama they are experiencing. [end recording]

Other questions put by Mr Charles (Lescot) to Mr Idriss Miskine: Could the changes announced recently in the top ranks of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] have any influence on the conference in Addis Ababa? Mr Miskine replied:

[Begin recording] [Miskine] I believe that it changes nothing, since the same men are to meet again. What is needed first of all is the political will to restore peace in Chad. What is needed is that they be inspired by the same desire for peace as we are. And at this moment I believe that we will be able to coordinate affairs and tune our strings in harmony. And I believe it is (?not) the structures or the kinds of structure that we may create on the left and the right which can restore peace to Chad.

[(Lescot)] What do you intend to propose to your brothers in enmity if this meeting is held?

[Miskine] We hope that the brothers will surpass themselves, that we will find ourselves around a table. The door is open for all negotiation, all forms of negotiation. And in this the government remains sincere, and I hope that it will respect its commitments within the framework of our discussions. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

FAN Effort To Repatriate Exiles in CAR Condemned
AB152250 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] In February 1983, a group of top-level Chadian political and military cadres living in exile in Bangui was threatened with expulsion to Ndjamena. According to the scenario, the chairman of the Command Council of the Northern Armed Forces [CCFAN] sent an envoy to the CAR authorities with the aim of striking a deal with them. Owing to the vigilant reaction of the GUNT and the common sense of the CAR Government, theses cadres recovered their freedom when they arrived in Brazzaville.

In Bangui, Comrade Mady was killed in cold blood in the street by FAN terrorists. Another serious incident has just happened. [passage indistinct]

According to the latest news, Hissein Habre has made urgent and constant requests to General Kolingba to repatriate some Chadian exiles there. According to the leader of the puppet forces, the exiles have important secrets. Will the CAR Government give in to the vile pressures of the (?butcher) in Ndjamena? The CAR Government must also take into account the moves being made by humanitarian organizations. In fact, the UN High Commission for Refugees has sent some representatives to Bangui to help the exiles leave the CAR for another destination. Amnesty International, for its part, has been informed about [words indistinct] a case of human rights. It will be recalled that [name indistinct], former minister and former member of the CCFAN, is being sought for the mere crime of having called for the resignation of Hissein Habre from the chairmanship of the FAN and the democratization of that organization to ensure reconciliation with the GUNT. The CAR authorities, who know the role being played by Amnesty International in their own country, must avoid [words indistinct]. The CAR president will do well to protect the life of [name indistinct] in the interest of brotherhood between Chad and the CAR.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

President Denies Coup Attempt, Sees Stability

AB161725 Paris AFP in French 1328 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Malabo, 16 December (AFP) — Colonel Obiang Nguema Mbasogo feels that the political situation in his country is "good and stable" and he has denied that there was a coup attempt in Malabo recently. During an interview with an AFP special correspondent in Malabo, the president said that "there are no threats to the country's survival" and that it enjoys "absolute tranquility."

Col Obiang Nguema also stressed that the aim of his domestic policy is to develop "the democratization process by setting up representative structures" and fighting against corruption, "which is a true canker plaguing the country."

"We have set up a people's House of Representatives," the president went on to say, stressing that this House would have the executive under its control. The elected representatives of the House were chosen indirectly, with "many candidates vying for the posts."

However, the head of state pointed out, this democratization process will not lead to the creation of political parties, as this is "neither possible nor desirable at this time of the country's reconstruction," which was ruined under the dictatorship of Macias Nguema who was toppled on 3 August 1979 by soldiers.

According to Col Obiang, the rehabilitation of this former Spanish colony — which measures 28,000 square kilometers and has a population of 316,000 people living on both the Bioko island off the western coast of Cameroon and the continental territory to the south of Cameroon — is faced with three major difficulties: corruption, the lack of cadres, and the absence of its own financial resources.

It is interesting to watch a cabinet meeting on Equatorial Guinean television, during which President Obiang does not hesitate to openly accuse his ministers of corruption and negligence in their governing and strongly advises them to set things in order. Wishful thinking? "Yes and no," asserts a Western diplomat. "The rate of corruption is so high in certain levels of the administration ... but it could be reduced a little, especially if the House manages to exercise control over affairs."

With regard to the negligence on the part of civil servants, it is mainly due to their incompetence. According to an observer who has lived in Malabo for several years, "the major problems are the lack of mid-level civil servants, the lack of serious training, and underpayment."

It must be stressed that in this country, where everything needs to be done or redone, especially in the economic sphere,since the fall of the delirious dictatorship of Macias Nguema, the minimum wage for example is 8,000 bipkweles (11,000 CFA francs) and prices are very high. At the Malabo market, for example, if a housewife wants to buy a porcupine, she must spend 9,000 bipkweles, that is, 1,000 more than the minimum monthly wage.

This lack of competent cadres is due in particular to the fact that the country's intellectuals, who were either killed by Macias Nguema or forced into exile, hesitate to return to their country in spite of urgent appeals from Malabo. There is also the threat of strong [word indistinct] by the "Mongomo group" which is still in power. This group, which took the name of the Mongomo region in the northeast of the continental part of the country, comprises people of Fang origin, the ethnic group of the former dictator.

The absence of financial resources and the total disorganization in cocoa production, the sole resource of Equatorial Guinea, prevents true development in the country.

"The year 1983 was quite difficult," President Obiang admitted. With regard to external debt, Malabo "had to reschedule many of its debts due to lack of funds."

"After renegotiating its debt with Spain and with the new impetus that the government is ready to give the country's economy, we hope to be able to meet our external obligations normally," the head of state asserted.

To this end, Malabo expects a lot from its forthcoming integration with the Central African Customs and Economic Union [UDEAC] and from cooperation with France. "Relations with UDEAC countries are excellent," Col Obiang said, "and we hope that France will be able to give us substantial aid to enable us to face our difficulties."

President, ROK Minister Discuss Cooperation

AB171256 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Yesterday the president of the republic granted three audiences. The head of state received in turns Kim Song-chin, the South Korean minister of communications who arrived on visit to our country 2 days ago, members of the Administrative Council of the International Center for Medical Research of Franceville, and the speaker of the House of Representatives of Equatorial Guinea, who also arrived on visit to our country some days ago and whose visit ended yesterday.

The South Korean minister of communications brought a message to the president of the republic from President Chon Tu-hwan, his South Korean counterpart. During the audience the growing cooperation between the two countries was discussed. Mr Zakari Myboto, the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, and Defense Minister Julien Mpouho were present at this audience.

GABON

ROK Communications Minister Arrives 15 Dec

AB161247 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Libreville, Dec 16 (AFP) — South Korean Communications Minister Kim Song-chin has arrived here for a four-day visit to the West African state of Gabon, during which he is to meet President Omar Bongo.

Mr Kim is also to meet other members of the Gabonese Government, including Posts and Telecommunications Minister Zacharie Myboto.

In a brief statement after his arrival yesterday, Mr Kim stressed the excellent state of relations between the two countries, which have had diplomatic relations since 1962. He said he would like his visit to bring a deepening of studies aimed at diversifying exchanges between Gabon and South Korea.

The two have been linked since 1975 by three cooperation agreements for trade, for economic matters, and in the technological, cultural, and scientific fields.

Mr Kim arrived from a five-day visit to Ivory Coast where, he said, he delivered a message to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny thanking his government for its "untiring support" for South Korea. He met a number of ministers in Ivory Coast, including Posts, Telecommunications, Works, and Construction Minister Ange-Francois Barry Battesti.

Sources in Abidjan said the two ministers agreed to develop long-term plans to improve cooperation between their countries.

BENIN

GUNT's Goukouni Arrives for Visit, Comments

AB190830 Paris AFP in French 1438 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Cotonou, 18 Dec (AFP) — Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Chadian Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], arrived late Sunday morning in Cotonou from Brazzaville, Congo. He was met on arrival by President Mathieu Kerekou, members of the diplomatic corps, and members of other official organizations.

Answering questions by newsmen, Goukouni said that [words indistinct] and the Chadian people in order to explain to them how the present discussions are progressing. After declaring that efforts are currently being made to find a peaceful solution, Goukouni Oueddei refused to [words indistinct] peace plan [words indistinct] the roundtable scheduled for 9 January in Addis Ababa.

Concerning the creation of the National Liberation Council (CNL), which includes factions opposed to President Habre, the GUNT president said that this council will deal with issues related to political and ideological orientation in order to reduce the GUNT's workload.

GHANA

Accra Reports Rawlings Visit to Ivory Coast

AB170825 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The leader of the revolution, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, was yesterday accorded a spontaneous rousing welcome at Yamoussoukro when he arrived there at the head of Ghana delegation for a friendly and working visit to the Republic of Ivory Coast. The inland airport of Yamoussoukro vibrated with thunderous cheers of the thousands of people who mobbed Chairman Rawlings recklessly. The large crowd included many Ghanaians resident in the Ivory Coast who overwhelmingly demonstrated their joy of seeing their revolutionary leader. They sang and cheered endlessly.

A remarkable aspect of the spectacular welcome for the Ghanaian leader was that of hundreds of Togolese residents who could not help but express profoundly their love and adulation for Flight Lt Rawlings through a tapestry of drumming and dancing that was the large crowd at bay [sentence as heard]. Most of the people who turned up to welcome the Ghanaian leader had traveled 240 km all the way from Abidjan to Yamoussoukro. A massive crowd of Ivorians including schoolchildren lined up along the road from the airport to the presidential lodge to catch a glimpse of Flight Lt Rawlings, who rode in an open car and waved heartily in response to the cheers.

The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] chairman was accompanied by the PNDC coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng; the special adviser, Captain Kodjo Tsikata; the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah; and Mr Harry Doduh, chief executive of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board. Others in the delegation were Ghana's ambassador-designate to the Ivory Coast, Colonel Dan Prah; and Mr J.L. Moussa, director of Africa and OAU affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The visit was to uphold the continuity of the friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries. Briefing newsmen on his arrival at Yamoussoukro, birthplace of the 78 year-old Ivorian president, Flight Lt Rawlings noted that the Ivory Coast was a great and noble country whose greatness could only be realized but through relentless social and economic interaction. He also noted that the barriers between the peoples of the Ivory Coast and Ghana are artificial. He said there was a great deal of substance that could allow for the breaking down of these existing barriers.

On the question of negotiating for a fair price of cocoa on the world market, Chairman Rawlings observed that the issue did not lie in only a fair price for cocoa, which is one of the mechanics. Africa, he stated, did not command the ways and means toward the achievement of her economic and social liberation. While cocoa happened to be just one of the mechanics, Africa is normally trapped in a position of needing imported goods, whereas those to whom the raw materials went merely wanted them at trifles. Chairman Rawlings declared that the least African nations which produced cocoa could do was to plot out a common strategy by which they could negotiate with those who wanted their produce. By doing this, Flight Lt Rawlings stated, the element of want would find itself shifting to the element of need that would enable African cocoa producers to come to full terms with major consumers.

Later in the day, the two leaders held discussions on vital bilateral issues. Featuring prominently in the talks was the question of improving the cultivation and development of cocoa in the two countries, both at the governmental and private farmers level. The discussions also touched on the impending cocoa conference scheduled for March next year in Geneva.

Chairman Rawlings and President Houphouet-Boigny discussed further the possibility of reactivating the Ghana-Ivory Coast border demarcation commission as a means of resolving any inherent difficulties. The two heads also affirmed their belief and recognition of the rights of their peoples to determine the kind of political systems suitable to them. They however agreed that the choice of different political system should not militate against true cooperation and brotherliness between their countries.

In this connection, Chairman Rawlings and President Houphouet-Boigny decided to make efforts to reconvene the Ghana-Ivory Coast joint permanent commission for cooperation which last met in 1979. President Houphouet-Boigny particularly expressed his desire to visit Ghana at a date to be announced later. President Houphouet-Boigny assured the Ghanaian head of state that even though the Ivory Coast had in principle allowed African political refugees to remain there, they would never be permitted to use the Ivory Coast soil as a base for hostile activities aimed at destabilizing Ghana's revolutionary process. The two neighboring countries discussed the future of the Cement Company of West Africa project and ways and means of making it more viable. The Ghanaian delegation has since returned home.

Power Official Comments on Reduced Consumption

AB171207 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpt] About 30 percent reduction in electricity consumption has been achieved as a result of the planned power cuts of the past 16 days. The target figure was 45 percent. This was announced by the chief executive of the Volta River Authority, Mr Kesly Hilford, during a meeting with manufacturers and the electricity corporation in Accra yesterday. The meeting was called to discuss how the manufacturers can help in the conservation of power in view of the critical power situation in the country. Mr Kesly Hilford said efforts would be made to achieve the full target saving in power consumption within the next few weeks.

IVORY COAST

Rawlings Arrives 16 December, Makes Statement

AB161440 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Ghanaian head of state, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, arrived in Yamoussoukro this morning aboard the presidential F-28. The minister of state, Camille Aliali, welcomed him on behalf of President Houphouet-Boigny.

Speaking to the press in the small lounge, the Ghanaian president declared his happiness at being in Yamoussoukro. He came to discuss issues related to the policy of African interaction.

[Begin Rawlings recording in English fading into French translation] The reasons for my visit are quite obvious. I am very happy to be here in Yamoussoukro today. The reception granted me was very significant. I could read from their faces the pleasure taken by the African youth in receiving a Ghanaian, an African. I am a Ghanaian but also an African. I am overwhelmed by this visit. This reception should be reflected in more tangible ways. Interaction among peoples should be reflected in concrete actions in the economic field, in the strengthening of our cultural and social relations. The artificial barriers that have been erected between our two countries should be knocked down. There have been rumors that President Houphouet-Boigny's roots are in Ghana; we are pleased to accept this rumor. There are also rumors that the late President Busia had origins in the Ivory Coast. We are happy to know both this and the fact that the late Dr Kwame Nkrumah was of Ivorian descent. This shows that the people of Ghana and the Ivory Coast are one.

The purpose of my visit is not merely to discuss cocoa-related issues. As I speak to you, what language am I using? And when you speak, what language do you use? Were you to visit me in Ghana, what language would you speak and in what language would we communicate? In foreign languages. Yes, we must put an end to this. There is an African identity that we must promote. It is high time we started and we must start today. We must awaken Africa at the economic and social levels. Africa must fight at these levels. It happens that the issue of cocoa comes under this heading. Cocoa is only one aspect of this problem. Consumers need cocoa. They established a law, that of supply and demand, but the terms are not fair. They are the ones who dictate the prices of goods today. This is not normal. It is time we corrected this. It is a pity we cannot dictate our prices to consumers, to those who use cocoa, to those who use raw materials. What we can do is adopt a common strategy and resolve to hold talks with them as equals. Only then will those who demand no longer impose on those who offer. We will then talk on a more equitable basis.

These are the same people who balkanized our continent. The balkanization of Africa must be overcome. We must now begin to break down the artifical barriers erected by our common exploiters. We must observe that we — who are speaking now — will not be able to reach the other side of the river. But we must set up structures and pave the way for future generations. This is another reason for my visit to the Ivory Voast. Empires were built on the skeletons of our ancestors, through the blood and sweat of our people, through the blood and sweat of our brothers, through our blood and sweat. Why should we ignore this? Something must be done.

Nowadays, when the communists and the Western countries go to the moon, what is the African doing? What is Africa doing? It is thanks to our blood, thanks to our sweat, that they succeeded in going to the moon. This must be corrected. The African must remain himself. I am sure that President Houphouet-Boigny shares my feelings.

It is clear that Ghana, an African country, cannot develop unless it cooperates with Togo, Benin, and the Ivory Coast within the framework of ECOWAS. We are aware of this, and this is why we must develop a policy aimed at promoting public awareness on these issues. We have intellectuals, but they must devote themselves to the education of our people. They must realize that even Africans deprive other Africans. They must endeavor to set up the machinery that will allow us to break down the sad barriers erected by our former masters; we must do this right away.

Henceforth, my visit here cannot be reduced to one dealing solely with cocoa. I will discuss many things with President Houphouet-Boigny. Even the water you drink in the Ivory Coast comes from France, and you buy it with money that you toil and sweat to earn. We import some costly goods and thus contribute to their wealth. Why shouldn't we put our means at our own disposal — at the disposal of African countries? It is high time we launch this policy of economic interaction in the interest of our peoples. [end recording]

President Rawlings, who arrived this morning at 1000 GMT, was received at the Guest House by President Houphouet-Boigny. The heads of state held a private meeting, after which President Rawlings was invited to lunch. The Ghanaian head of state will return to his country today following a few hours' stay in Yamoussoukro.

LIBERIA

Doe Holds Meeting at Unity Conference Center

Coupists' Military Trial Planned

AB161620 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Commander in Chief Dr Samuel K. Doe, has announced that those accused of involvement in the alleged coup plot to topple the PRC government will be turned over to the special military tribunal for free and fair trial. The decision was made today at the meeting with the cross session of the Liberian populace at the Unity Conference Center in Virginia, outside Monrovia. The head of state said further that 14 people are to be released from detention because of the lack of sufficient evidence in their involvement in the alleged plot. Those released include Lieutenant Colonel John Bnago, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Freeman, Lieutenant James Badie, and Lieutenant John Bla. Others are Staff Sergeant John Menkin, Corporal Johson Wonien, Private Daniel Ziah, Private Kessely Jala, Mr Joseph Yomi, Mr Sey Kaye. Also released were Walz Walker, Samuel Yebo, and Miss Ko Nemiyon.

Economic Growth Sought

AB180728 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] National economic planners and experts in financial management have been mandated to draw up a satisfactory blueprint aimed at stimulating and accelerating the economic growth of Liberia. The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief Samuel Kanyon Doe, gave the mandate yesterday when he addressed elders, (?local), and paramount chiefs, country and territorial superintendants at the Unity Conference Center in Virginia, outside Monrovia.

He said the People's Redemption Council, PRC, has decided to seriously address our economic problems with immediate effect. He stressed that it should be objectively considered that the present economic difficulty the country is faced with was not entirely the making of the PRC because it had inherited a huge debt from the previous regime at the tune of $850 million. He said this amount could have been used to help the government overcome its present liquidity problems and added the government has to request a rescheduling of some of its external debts, in the wake of the continuing critical financial and budgetary constraints.

MALI

Chinese Party Delegation Ends Visit

AB181222 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] A Chinese Communist Party delegation has ended its Malian visit in Bamako. The delegation, led by Jiang Guanghua, deputy director of the International Liaison Department, was accompanied by Mr Sekou Minandiou Traore, member of the Central Executive Bureau [BEC]. The group held a working session on Sino-Malian cooperation at the People's Palace, ans was later received in a series of audiences by General Filifing Sissoko, BEC acting secretary in charge of foreign relations; Mr Djibril Diallo, BEC political secretary; and General Amadou Baba Diarra, deputy secretary general of the party.

Early in the afternoon, a dinner hosted by the Chinese Embassy's charge d'affaires in Mali brought together the two sides. This morning's trip to the Kati Hospital rounded out this visit by the Chinese Communist Party delegation, which will leave Bamako later this afternoon for Dakar.

NIGER

Kountche Speaks on Role of Military in Politics

AB181140 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Niamey, Dec 18 (AFP) — The absence of the military in the new Niger Government did not mean the armed forces were abandoning their responsibilities or standing aside, head of state General Seyni Kountche said here last night.

In a speech marking the 25th anniversary of independence from France, General Kountche said the presence of senior officers in the country's developing administrative structure, and in local or regional headquarters, was "establishing a real symbiosis between the nation and the army" while meeting the need for the military to hold "the most sensitive points."

The army was left out of the government appointed on November 14 for the first time since the April 1974 coup which brought the ruling Supreme Military Council to power. However, it holds all the regional administrator posts and a large proportion of other senior positions locally. As a result, the military still have a prominent place in the pyramidal structure of consultative and executive councils known as the National Development Society.

However, a civilian prime minister, Hamid Algabid, has been given the job of rescuing the country from its present economic and financial [words indistinct].

In this context, General Kountche said that prices of essential products would be under "strict and permanent control," and ideas to re-employ people dismissed for economic reasons, notably in the para-state sector, would be put forward soon.

In a reference to Niger's food situation, always of concern to this 90 percent rural state in spite of a relatively good harvest this year compared with the harvest in neighboring countries, General Kountche urged the conservation of grain and an end to wastage. He said that 17 percent of the population was either partly or totally without cereals.

On the other hand, he advised livestock breeders to sell their animals, in view of the poor quality of pastureland. Animal food needs would be met, he added.

Recalling finally the unsuccessful coup on October 6 while he was out of the country, General Kountche issued the now traditional call for "vigilance" against "destabilising manoeuvers."

Today a simple military parade marked the independence anniversary. The current situation did not allow a grandiose demonstration or expensive celebrations, General Kountche said.

NIGERIA

UPN Leader Appointed Life President of Party

AB171350 Lagos NAN in English 0935 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Abeokuta Dec. 17 (NAN) — The national president of the UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria], Chief Obafemi Awolowo, was yesterday in Abeokuta appointed the life president of the party. This was contained in a motion sponsored by the second national vice president of the party, Mrs. Oyibo Odinamadu, and was adopted by the congress.

Mrs. Odinamadu said that Chief Awolowo would not die spiritually, physically and mentally until he became the president of the country. She said that it was worthwhile for the UPN and the NPN [National Party of Nigeria] to stay apart for a while because the two parties were strange bedfellows.

Also in his speech, the Lagos State Governor Alhai Lateef Jakande, said that anyone who did not believe religiously that Chief Obafemi Awololo could become the president of Nigeria should leave the party. He said that any person who was also in doubt about the ultimate success of the party should be rejected adding that industry, discipline and fartherfulness [as received] should henceforth be the watchwords of the party.

Alhaji Jakande further reaffirmed that the UPN was not prepared to go into any merger with any of the existing political parties.

SENEGAL

'Serious Violence' Reported in Casamance

AB190757 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT 19 Dec 83

[By Jacques Lacotte]

[Text] Dakar, Dec 19 (AFP) — Senegal's most serious violence for many years erupted on Sunday in the southern province of Casamance when people armed with guns, bows and arrows and bush knives clashed with soldiers and police in Ziguinchor, the regional capital, leaving at least 19 dead and 80 wounded.

A first bloody confrontation had occurred on December 6 in nearby Diabir when gendarmes tried to break up an illegal meeting believed to be sponsored by the pro-secessionist Movement of Democratic Forces (MFD). Three gendarmes were killed and four wounded.

The government then sent in 500 extra troops, while a week ago the state security court here jailed 19 suspected MFD members for from three to five years for prejudicing national unity. They had been detained during a demonstration in Ziguinchor last December 26.

Yesterday two armed groups tried to storm the administrative headquarters and the nearby police station. One band came up river in canoes, the other arrived by road from the surrounding "sacred woods," the traditional meeting place of the region's majority Diola tribe.

A provisional official casualty list Sunday night said 15 of the raiders, including four women, had been killed while the security forces lost four men with another 20 wounded.

The government appears to be moving cautiously to avoid any direct action which could make matters worse, despite sending in the 500 troops 10 days ago in mobile intervention groups.

Last Sunday a major soccer match in Ziguinchor between the local Casamance team and a Dakar side was cancelled as a precautionary measure. But yesterday the team played an armed forces side here without incident.

President Abdou Diouf told last week's cabinet meeting that he was fully determined to oppose any hint of destabilisation or subversion in Senegal. But the new outbreak of protests in Casamance poses a delicate problem for his government and its image of stability and democracy in Africa. It seems to have been unable to find any representatives of the would-be independence movement to deal with. The demonstrators jailed last week denied belonging to the MFD, though they were equally firm about stating their support for its aims.

A majority of the people of Casamance do not appear to want independence. But they do have numerous complaints about a government which often seems to be as distant as the French colonial governors were. Casamance is virtually cut off from the rest of the country by the tiny English-speaking country of Gambia and its river. Geographical isolation has undeniably held back the assimilation of local tribes with the rest of Senegal, where the Wolofs dominate with majorities in the north and centre.

The Casamance peoples — the Diola, Manding, Mandjack and Balante — also seem to have been only superficially Christianised by Portuguese and French missionaries, or equally little Islamicised by the 'Marabouts,' visiting Muslim preachers who came in the wake of the gradual arrival of Senegal's other main tribes, the Wolof, Peulh and Toucouleur. Many of their original animist traditions remain strong, including a leading role assigned to women.

In addition there are social and political grievances. The government is moving to satisfy them, but perhaps a bit late. Economic development is now keeping pace with that of the other regions, but it is rather slow because Senegal is facing extreme economic difficulties. In a government reshuffle last April, several ministers from Casamance were named. The measures seem to have been insufficient to stamp out the local hostility that sparked off yesterday's bloodshed.

SIERRA LEONE

'More Than 200' Arrested in Southern Province

AB161405 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 16 Dec 83

[By Khalil Kamara]

[Excerpts] Freetown, Dec 16 (AFP) — More than 200 people have been arrested in the strifetorn Southern Province district of Pujehun bordering Liberia, Sierra Leone's armed forces commander, Major-General Joseph Saidu Momoh, said here.

He denied rumours that those arrested included Liberians. They had been picked up by the army a month after two infantry companies with ten armored cars moved into the region to check killings, burning of villages and destruction of property by "bandits."

Discontent in the area stems from the defeat of long-serving Pujehun East member of Parliament Mana Kpaka, who was defeated by a young district administration official.

Major-General Momoh said that to contain "an ugly situation of banditry" the army had made the arrests "without firing a single shot." Among those held was the alleged deputy leader of the bandits, Borderdie Rogers, while the leader, popularly known as "the devil," is said to have fled into Liberia.

Major-General Momoh said that although the bandits and dissidents seemed to have given up the fight, the commander of the operation, Lieutenant-Colonel Jusu Gortor, felt the army should stay in the area for "some time to come" to "mop up" and restore confidence among the civilian population, most of whom had taken refuge in the bush. "At least we will have to stay in the area for the next month. We may reduce the numbers from the original 450 men but we may never leave at all since there has been no military presence in the Southern Province as opposed to all other three regions. There are even plans to build up a third battalion of the army which will be based in the south," Major-General Momoh said.

ANGOLA

Communiques Issued on RSA Air Raids 17-18 Dec

MB181111 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Angolan Ministry of Defense on 17 December 1983]

[Text] Since the communique issued on 14 December 1983 regarding the South African offensive against our troops' defensive positions in Mulondo, the enemy has become infuriated in view of the failure it has suffered as a result of the firm resistance of our troops. At 1000 on 17 December 1983 the South African Air Force, consisting of 17 Mirage planes, inflicted a number of blows on the position being defended by our troops at Mulondo, killing and wounding a number of people and destroying military equipment. At the moment our troops continue heroically to defend themselves against the attacks by the South African racists who, despite the opportune response of our troops, continue to seek to sow death and terror among the residents in the area.

We once again alert the national and international public opinion to the criminal actions that the South African racists have conducted since 14 December 1983 within our territory, 300 km from the border with Namibia, which is illegally occupied. We appeal to our people, from Cabinda to Cunene, to further mobilize themselves for the defense of our fatherland, which is being threatened, so that we can respond to the bellicose aggressions of the South African racists.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Luanda, 17 December 1983, year of the strengthening of organization.

[Signed] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense

18 Dec Communique

MB190653 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Communique issued by Angolan Defense Ministry on 18 December 1983]

[Text] In regard to our communique yesterday, 17 December 1983, concerning the continuation of criminal aggression by the South African racists more than 300 km inside our territory in Cunene and Huila Provinces, the South Africans repeated their acts of murderous fury again today, 18 December 1983, with the support of their Air Force. Thus from 0900-1700 today, the South African Air Force bombed the town of Caiundo in Cuando Cubango Province, using Mirage and Buccaneer aircraft. As a result, houses and the town's school and hospital were destroyed. Dozens of civilians were killed.

We once again alert the national and international public to this further escalation of aggression by the South African racists against the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola. Such aggression is not restricted to Cunene Province, but also occurs in Huila and Cuando Cubango Provinces. Our forces in Cunene Province as well as in Cuando Cubango and Huila Provinces will continue to firmly defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity. In view of what has been stated and considering the duty of the international community, we appeal to it once again to expose these criminal acts against a UN member-state and the situation resulting from the present escalation in this southern region.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Office of the Minister of Defense of the People's Republic of Angola in Luanda, on 18 December 1983, year of the strengthening of organization.

[Signed] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense

Call Made for Urgent UN Security Council Meeting

MB162010 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The Angolan Government yesterday called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to examine the situation caused by the constant occupation of the southern regions of the People's Republic of Angola by South African troops. The Angolan representative at the United Nations, Elisio de Figueiredo, sent a letter to the president, (Boaventura), in which he states that the occupation by the racist South African regime constitutes an act of violation of territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

Mozambique's Machel Arrives in Transit to Bissau

MB170628 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, has been in Luanda since this afternoon in transit to Guinea-Bissau, where he will take part in yet another summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries. The Mozambique head of state, who was received on his arrival by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, is expected to leave for the Guinean capital tomorrow.

Dos Santos, Machel Departures for Summit Reported

MB171242 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, left the country this morning for Guinea-Bissau, where another summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries will begin tomorrow. The Angolan head of state was seen off by Colonel [word indistinct] Paulo Dino Matross and Comrade Evaristo Domingos Kimba, members of the party Political Bureau, and other officials of the MPLA-Labor Party and government.

Earlier Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, left Luanda. He had been in our country since yesterday in transit to Guinea-Bissau. The Mozambique president was accompanied by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, up to the apron of the 4 February International Airport.

ANGOP Commentary Rejects UNITA Claims of Success

MB161412 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 15 Dec 83

[ANGOP commentary: "To Kill One's Fill"]

[Text] Less than a month ago the UNITA puppet gangs, the armed wing of the South African regime in Angola, claimed to have killed Angolan military men at such a pace that had it been extended, it would have facilitated to a great extent the scheduled census of the population — there would not have been anyone left to be counted.

All this alleged killing is supposedly the result of a so-called winter offensive, an expression which is enough to totally discredit its authors. To regard as "winter" an offensive which is allegedly taking place in one of the hottest periods in Angola, exposes the (?falsehoods) carried in the triumphant communiques issued by the puppets.

The truth, however, is that the armed gangs have not been able to contain the powerful People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] counteroffensive that has been launched in a coordinated manner in various provinces since the recent creation of the regional military councils. Thanks to this, they resort to lies.

Once the concentration of the gangs' forward armed groups in the Mussende area in Cuanza Sul Province and the Andulo area in Bie Province — from which they intended to go into action in Malanje, Lunda Norte, and Lunda Sul Provinces — had been broken, they felt compelled to resort to diversionary tactics to try to hide their natural failures. Thus, after the FAPLA successes, we see the puppets claiming with great publicity successes in the far east of the country or opportunistically assuming responsibility for true tragedies that were not caused by them, as was the case with the crash of the Angolan Airlines' Boeing or the fire at the Saratoga building in Luanda. Should this trend be accepted, someday UNITA will claim responsibility for any (?significant event).

It is easy to understand the puppets' reasons. Condemned to disappear soon, UNITA needs a maximum of publicity in upcoming months to try to convince the world public opinion that its victory is imminent and, at least, to keep alive the interest of those governments and organizations which, being badly informed about what is really happening in Angola, could favor diplomatic efforts on behalf of the armed gangs in the service of Pretoria.

As it (?foresees) the expected annihilation of its armed wing in Angola, South Africa (?is making) great efforts with some of its Western protectors, particularly the United States [words indistinct] and the manner to implement Namibian independence. The efforts, however, are failing. France has withdrawn from the so-called Contact Group, thus sounding a death knell to a stillborn maneuver. Great Britain also seems to be reconsidering its stand in this regard. The pretext of linkage [preceeding word in English], however, between the presence of Cuban internationalists in Angola and Namibian independence is increasingly losing the meaning it never had.

It is in this context, therefore, that UNITA, without assessing the ridiculous position in which it has placed itself, claims operations all over Angola, forays which basic common sense would advise not to divulge. However, the armed bandits do not know what to do in their desperation. They attack (?a number of places) in areas that cannot be found on accredited maps or, at the same time that they state that their objective is to enter in Luanda, they pride themselves on actions in areas which are situated increasingly away form the capital. It is interesting to note that the number of dead claimed by UNITA is increasing as the gangs retreat toward the borders from where they entered.

There is nothing like a good defeat to unmask the deceptive language of those who are sated with killing the most elementary truth.

UNITA Issues Communique on 16-30 Nov Operations

MB162100 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese 0430 GMT 16 Dec 83

["Operational information report" for 16-30 November issued by the Office of Operations of the Strategic Operational Command in Angola — date not given]

[Text] UNITA's general offensive decreed by General Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, the comrade president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA], against the Cuban forces and People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] is continuing in triumph. Bands of Cuban mercenaries protecting the MPLA chieftains continue to suffer defeats inflicted by FALA throughout the national territory. Against the falsehood being spread by the MPLA warlords on Radio Luanda, here is the truth on the war situation in the political and military field for the period 16-30 November 1983, including the most prominent actions, which confirm the growth and superiority of the UNITA forces against the demoralized FAPLA forces:

In Moxico Province on 28 November our forces attacked a motorized column on the Luena-(Lukutse) road. FALA forces killed 25 FAPLA soldiers and 2 Cubans. In this attack UNITA captured 34 small arms, 2 82-mm mortars, 1 14.5-mm antiaircraft gun, and a field radio. They also destroyed two vehicles. In Bie Province on 19 November a motorized column on Huambo-Coemba road was attacked by the glorious FALA forces, which destroyed 6 vehicles and killed 17 FAPLA traitors and 3 soldiers of the Cuban mercenary Army. On the same day, 19 November, UNITA captured 19 small arms, 3 60-mm mortars, 5 RPG-7's, 4 wooden boxes of ammunition, and 97 shells of various types. In Bie Province our forces also attacked an 11-vehicle column on the road linking Bie to Menongue. In the operation the FAPLA lackeys suffered 11 confirmed losses. Our forces captured 12 small arms, 3 RPG-7's, 1 bazooka, and 4,861 rounds of various calibers of ammunition. They also burned seven enemy vehicles. On 26 November FALA forces annihilated the 36th Battalion of the 39th Brigade at (Chicumbe). They captured 34 small arms, 1 B-10 cannon, a 82-mm mortar, 3 bazookas, 9,641 rounds of ammunition of various calibers, a case containing 24 antipersonnel mines, and a radio transmitter. In addition to the seizure of the above mentioned equipment, our forces also captured a FAPLA member, (Amadeu Feliz) age 28, from Malanje and destroyed four vehicles.

In a number of operations in Huambo Province UNITA accomplished the following: On 25 November our artillery shelled the Bela Vista enemy position. On the same day an enemy military reconnaissance column was repulsed between Huambo and Bela Vista. On 26 November the (Dondeiro) enemy post at Vila Flor was attacked and captured. In the action 16 FAPLA members and 1 Cuban were killed. UNITA forces seized 27 guns of various types and some equipment and freed 157 members of the public. In Benguela Province our forces attacked a FAPLA company in the Chicuma area between Chicuma and (Egito Praga). In this operation carried out on 23 November the FAPLA lackeys suffered 16 dead. UNITA forces seized 6 Czechoslovak-made and 6 Russian-made AK's, 25 KS's, 1 SVD, 1 82-mm mortar, some ammunition of various calibers, and a large number of shells. On 27 November a motorized enemy column was annihilated on the road linking Benguela to Novo Redondo. The operation claimed the lives of 40 FAPLA members, including the commander of the column, (Antonio da Costa Franca). Our forces captured 36 small arms, 14,331 rounds of ammunition, 41 shells, and 57 defensive hand grenades.

In Cuanza Norte Province on 21 November the explosion of a landmine placed by the glorious FALA forces between Lucala and Dugque de Braganca destroyed a vehicle, killing 16 FAPLA men. On 29 November in Cuanza Norte Province our forces mobilized the people in the (Cambendo) area and the people responded en masse in support of UNITA, resulting in the surrender of all the FAPLA men in the region to our forces. In Huila Province, on 24 November the detonation of a landmine planted by FALA technicians 3 km from (Chipindu) on the way to Galangue, destroyed a vehicle, killing 19 FAPLA traitors.

In Lunda Province, FALA forces seized Alto Chicapa. The FAPLA bandits — following their resounding defeat at Alto Chicapa — are now in total disarray. On 30 November 79 armed FAPLA and 14 people's defense forces members, in addition to 977 members of the public from the (Luma Cassai) area, presented themselves to our forces. On 30 November our forces stormed and seized the enemy barracks on the Henrique de Carvalho-Capaia road. In the action 26 FAPLA members were killed and 23 small arms, 1 B-10 cannon, 6 60-mm mortars, 4 RPG-7's, 1 12.7-mm machinegun, 8,640 rounds of ammunition of various calibers, and 160 shells were captured.

In Cuando Cubango Province on 17 November two FAPLA members from Cuchi presented themselves to our forces. They are Sergeant (Laurindo Chiove) and Private (Ernesto Cangunjo). On 18 November our forces repulsed an enemy group at the source of the Cueio River. In the action eight FAPLA and two ODP members were killed. Our forces captured eight small arms, a radio transmitter, and a FAPLA private named (Clarindo Amafio), an RPG-7 rocket marksman. On 21 November an enemy patrol unit was attacked at (Sobie), Cuito Cuanavale. In the attack four Cuban mercenaries were killed and the remainder fled in disarray. During the same period UNITA suffered 12 killed and 12 wounded.

1-5 Dec Operations

MB161456 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 16 Dec 83

[War communique issued in Angola on 6 December 1983 by Demostenes Amos Chitingutila, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola]

[Text] In operations carried out by the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] in the Provinces of Luanda, Malanje, Huambo, Cuanza Sul, Lunda, Bie, and Cuando Cubango 1-5 December 1983, during the continuation of our general offensive against Russians, Cubans, and all the MPLA renegades, we achieved the following results: A total of 87 members of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and 5 Cubans killed, 62 assorted weapons captured, 5 FAPLA members captured, 8 vehicles destroyed, 3 armored cars destroyed, and 15,000 civilians freed. Our actions included the following:

On 1 December 1983 a platoon of special commandos attacked the ranch of a 68-year-old German called (Walder Kruger), where 50 members of FAPLA had been deployed for protection. A total of 10 members of FAPLA were killed and the intimidated German was forced to abandon the area. This took place in [word indistinct] area of Massangano, in Luanda Province. At 0500 hours on 2 December 1983 our forces captured the enemy barracks of Mumbue, a town situated about 173 km from Bie. A FAPLA battalion assisted by 25 Cubans was defeated, 15,000 civilians were freed, and a large quantity of war materiel was captured. On 2 and 3 December 1983 two Cuban motorized columns on their way from Cacuso to (?Saurimo) and from Luassingua to Baixo-Longa, in the Provinces of Malanje and Cuando Cubango respectively, were annihilated by our forces. Vehicles with registration numbers CD30622, CD27-A, CD31-B, and COBQEPR were destroyed. On 4 and 5 December 1983 the enemy barracks in Lubalo, Lunda Province, and (Fazenda America), in Cuanza Sul Province, were taken by our forces. The following FAPLA officers were captured: First Lieutenant (Augusto Evaristo Mambanza), Second Lieutenant (David da Costa Kazenda), and the logistics chief of the 3d motorized brigade. The bridge over the (Luvulu) river was also destroyed in Huambo Province, following an attack on FAPLA forces protecting it. The operation took place at about 2230 hours on 3 December 1983.

As long as the Cubans continue in Angola, the MPLA will be to blame for the destruction and the increasing number of deaths of innocent Angolans.

The struggle triumphs! United we shall win!

Angola, 6 December 1983, year of anti-Cuban campaign.

Signed: Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, FALA chief of General Staff

BOTSWANA

BDF To Increase Patrols Along Zairian Border

MB170604 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The Botswana Defense Force [BDF] is to increase its patrols along the border with Zimbabwe. This has been announced in Gaborone by the Botswana minister of defense and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, who said, however, that the patrols were insufficient to cover the 600 km long border. He urged people living near the border to inform the police or the Botswana Defense Force of the presence of any strangers in their villages.

Commentary Urges Vigilance

MB161700 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Quite often the people of Botswana have complained about harrassment by armed elements they suspect to be members of foreign armies. Some of the incidents have been confirmed by authorities, who lost no time in taking appropriate measures to stop their recurrence. It would now appear that violation of Botswana's territorial intergrity at various points of the border is a familiar thing. When even helicopters and planes are introduced into the scene, the general citizenry has cause to be wary. Helicopters are powerful machines which are known to be able to unleash havoc and devastation when they are engaged. They can be intimidating and frightening.

In the Maitengwe area, along the border with Zimbabwe a few weeks ago, helicopters were repeatedly seen flying at low altitudes with telling psychological effect. People deserted their homes and sought temporary shelter in the jungle. Very recently in Sukwane, helicopters were seen hovering overhead in a provocative manner. Their sudden and unexpected appearance again caused panic and pandemonium. Mothers holding young babies and expectant mothers who were at the clinic ran helter skelter, laborers abandoned their work. Obviously, this is a situation that a nation which has chosen to live at peace with its neighbors cannot entertain.

To see war machines entering the territory of a country which does not have designs against its neighbors is something we fail to understand. As it is evident that there are elements bent on disturbing our peaceful climate, we endorse the statement by the minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, that the patrols in the Botswana Defense Force along our borders are not enough by themselves, they need the additional help of the people. Batswana living in villages along the borders must be watchful and report the presence of dubious elements to the police and the Army without delay. It is only with vigilance and cooperation that the Army and the police can achieve pinpoint accuracy in tracking down the intruders. The people themselves can also enhance their own security.

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel Leaves for Guinea-Bissau Summit

MB161728 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] President Samora Machel left for Guinea-Bissau this afternoon to attend the summit of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries. The Mozambique head of state is accompanied by Joaquim Chissano, the foreign minister; Jacinto Veloso, minister in the presidency for economic affairs; (Isaias Muhate), deputy minister of trade shipping; and (Filipe Gabriel), deputy minister of foreign trade. President Samora Machel was seen off at Maputo International Airport by members of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Mariano Matsinhe, Jorge Rebelo, and Oscar Monteiro, as well as by other members of the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers.

SOUTH AFRICA

UN Envoy Warns of Action Against SWAPO

MB161950 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1938 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 16, SAPA — Accusing the United Nations of being one of the main instigators of SWAPO's terror campaign against the people of SWA/Nambia, South Africa tonight warned it would take "whatever action necessary" if SWAPO continued with its "senseless campaign of violence."

Speaking during a special UN Security Council debate on South African raids into southern Angola, South Africa's ambassador to the UN, Mr Kurt von Shirnding, warned that South Africa would also not allow SWAPO to establish sanctuaries in southern Angola from which it could launch attacks on SWA/Namibia against terrorist attacks.

"South Africa has repeatedly stated that the moment SWAPO undertakes to cease its campaign of violence, and in fact carries out such a commitment, action against SWAPO by the South African forces would cease. Under such circumstances, there would, of course, be no necessity for South African military action across the border against SWAPO elements in Angola," Mr von Shirnding said.

He added that Africa would one day understand that the South African forces in the Angolan-SWA/Namibian border area — "which it now so vehemently condemns" — were in fact fighting to defend the whole of Africa against "a powerful and sinister threat." And nothing that the UN Security Council decided now or in the future could change this basic fact. "Indeed, many Africa leaders fear this same threat by the same super-power and its surrogates, and the majority of the members of this council know what the truth is, but would not admit it for reasons of their own."

Copies of Mr Shirnding's address were made available in Pretoria tonight. South Africa's warning followed close on the heels of the country's surprise offer last night to withdraw its forces conducting pre-emptive strikes inside Angola for one month from January 31, if the Angolan Government agreed to stop giving support to SWAPO insurgents raiding SWA/Namibia.

SWAPO has reportedly already rejected the offer. A British Broadcasting Corporation broadcast early this morning quoted a SWAPO spokesman at the UN as saying the proposal was "totally unacceptable."

The special UN debate on South Africa today was called by Angola, which complained that parts of its territory had been "occupied" by South Africa since 1981.

In his address to the UN, Mr von Shirnding repeated that South Africa's offer to resolve its problems with Angola through peaceful means still stood. "It (South Africa) has no desire to control a single centimetre of Angolan territory. And although it differs radically with the policies and approach of the MPLA regime, it is prepared to examine the possibility of peaceful coexistnce with all the states of the region," he asserted. He added that the MPLA would not solve its problems by pretending they were all caused by South Africa. "If there are members of this council who believe the MPLA's propaganda that South Africa is responsible for the present situation in Angola, then we challenge the MPLA to invite members of the council to go to Angola to assess the situation freely for themselves."

The solution to the problem was simple. The MPLA should, in accordance with international law, ensure that its territory was not used as a springboard for launching terrorist attacks against its neighbours, he said. "The MPLA regime is aware of this and yet it persists in supporting SWAPO's policy of aggression." He charged that Angola had called the UN meeting to hide its "own aggressive designs" against the people of SWA/Namibia and to distract attention from its own "serious" internal problems. "These problems have arisen from the imposition on Angola of an ideology which is utterly alien to the people of Africa. The fact of the matter is that the authority of the MPLA regime does not derive from the freely expressed wishes of the Angolan people, but from the military force of foreign troops," Mr von Shirnding said.

By calling the meeting, the MPLA had also hoped to justify the presence of Cubans and "other surrogates" which it had invited to "suppress" the Angolan people, he added. The Cubans — whose withdrawal South Africa has cited as a precondition for SWA/Namibian independence — were not there to fight South Africa, but to fight the people of Angola, he claimed. "They are not there to defend the independence of a sovereign government. They are there to prop up an unrepresentative, unelected and unpopular clique. They are not the allies of Africa in the struggle for liberation. They are the vanguard of the new imperialists and colonialists and their eyes are as much on Lusaka, Kinshasa, Gaborone, Brazzaville and Libreville as they are on Windhoek and Pretoria," he asserted. "If the council seeks evidence in this regard, it should consult the peoples of Poland, Afghanistan and most recently, Grenada."

Mr von Shirnding said the factors which had brought about the situation in Angola had not changed since the UN Security Council last sat on the question in August 1981. SWAPO, he charged, had murdered more than 1,300 SWA/Namibians since it began its terrorist campaign in the disputed territory. It had conducted a systematic campaign of intimidation against its political opponents and had been responsible for the assassination of several political leaders — among them, the Herero paramount chief, Mr Clemens Kapuuo, who was widely tipped to be the first president of an independent SWA/Namibia. "In addition, more than one thousand SWA/Namibians have been maimed or serously injured as a result of SWAPO's violent activities. Eleven hundred people, mostly school children, have been abducted from SWA/Namibia. SWAPO now relies on such abductions and recruitment of Angolan citizens to replenish its terrorist bands," he said. "These actions, and not it's UN rhetoric, are SWAPO's response to the prospect of free and fair elections in SWA/Namibia."

Since all parties involved in the dispute had agreed that the territory should become independent on the basis of free and fair elections, SWAPO should state why it continued with this "senseless campaign of violence. For as long as it continues to do so, South Africa will take whatever action is necessary to defend the people of SWA/Namibia," he warned. "In particular, South Africa will not allow SWAPO bands to establish sanctuaries north of the border in Angola, from where they can carry out their raids against the inhabitants of the territory," he added.

"In keeping with the UN Charter, South Africa would have preferred to resolve the problem by peaceful means," Mr von Shirnding said, adding that South Africa had explored all the possibilities for a negotiated settlement. "In 54 letters to the former secretary-general, South Africa brought to the attention of the UN details of the hundreds of murders which had been perpetrated by SWAPO. South Africa repeatedly urged the secretary-general to use his good offices to bring about a cessation of armed attacks against SWA/Namibia from Angola. However, its letters were ignored," Mr von Shirnding stated.

"On several occasions, South Africa sought to put its case to the General Assembly, but its right to do so was simply brushed aside, obviously because the majority in the UN finds the truth unpalatable. And when the representatives of the territory who were suffering from SWAPO attacks sought to express their grievances, this council was not even prepared to give them a hearing. Far from playing the role envisaged in the charter for the peaceful resolution of disputes, the UN has been one of the main instigators and supporters of SWAPO's terrorist violence against the people of the territory," he charged.

Having exhausted the possibilities of preventing SWAPO aggression through the UN, South Africa had attempted to liaise directly with the MPLA regime, Mr von Shirnding pointed out. On December 7 and 8, 1982, a South African delegation, led by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, held talks with an MPLA delegation on the Cape Verde Islands. A formula was proposed, which could have led to a cessation of armed activities in the border area and the withdrawal of SWAPO and Cuban forces above certain latitudes in Angola. It was hoped that this process would lead to peace in the border area and that it would make an important contribution to the settlement of the region's broader problems.

A second meeting between ministerial delegations from the two countries was consequently arranged to take place on the Cape Verde Islands on February 23 this year, to make further progress toward a supposedly common objective — the establishment of peace in the border area. "However, SWAPO, actively supported by the MPLA regime, chose the eve of the second round of talks to launch its largest ever offensive against the people of SWA/Namibia," Mr von Shirnding said. "Although South Africa would have been entitled to do so, it did not cancel the talks, but sent a senior delegation to the Cape Verde Islands to make it clear that the talks could not continue unless FAPLA (the military wing of the MPLA) and SWAPO manifested the same military restraint that South Africa had for a number of months maintained. "South Africa also made it clear that an overall solution to the problems of the region would require the withdrawal of the Cubans from the whole of Angola. South Africa informed the MPLA regime on a number of occasions that it would be prepared to continue its bilateral discussions on this basis. However, the MPLA regime had clearly decided to abandon the process of peaceful negotiation and to seek to achieve its objectives by other means," the ambassador added.

Referring, in conclusion, to South Africa's offer to start disengaging its troops, Mr von Shirnding said South Africa's attitude toward further efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the SWA/Namibian issue would be influenced by the response to this latest peace initiative.

SADF Reaction to Angolan Raid Allegations

MB161317 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The SADF [South African Defense Force] has reacted in Pretoria to Angolan allegations that South African troops have been involved in battles with Angolan soldiers inside Angola. A Defense Force spokesman said the SADF's only presence in Angola was in hot pursuit operations directed against SWAPO terrorists, because it was its policy to seek and destroy SWAPO terrorists wherever they might be found.

He said there was no point in reacting to repetitive allegations which had been bandied about in recent years by the Angolan Government and a variety of sympathetic people and organizations. It was well known that the MPLA was under considerable pressure from the Angolan resistance movement, UNITA. Rather than admit to its inability to cope with the situation, the Angolan Government was, therefore, resorting to the hackneyed tactics of blaming South Africa for its internal problems.

In a statement broadcast on Radio Luanda, the Angolan Ministry of Defense alleged that the fighting took place when South African units advanced on Huambo [as heard] from Xangongo.

ANC Claims Responsibility for 15 Dec Bomb Blasts

MB161422 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The ANC was responsible for last night's bomb attacks in Johannesburg and Durban. That is according to an ANC statement from the movement's offices in Lusaka. Last night, six people were injured in a blast at the offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Johannesburg. Three bomb blasts in Durban caused slight damage. The ANC says the blasts were carried out by its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe. In its words, they are an affirmation of our determination to intensify our armed offinsive against the Pretoria regime. The ANC says the latest bomb attacks again show its military units are based in South Africa, not in neighboring countries, as South Africa claims. The statment also marks the founding of Umkhonto we Sizwe 22 years ago today.

ANC Officials Predict Intensified Action

EA161601 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 15 Dec 83

[ANC program]

[Report on interview with (Tabo Embeki), ANC secretary for information and publicity, and (Joe Mudize), founding member and leading commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, by unidentified correspondent — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Tonight Comrade (Tabo Embeki) starts by focusing on the future operations of Umkhonto we Sizwe. What can we expect in future?

[(Embeki)] There has to be an all-round intensification. It is the strategic goal which the ANC pursues, it is the destruction of the apartheid system and the seizure of power by the people. Now to accomplish that means that we must build up such forces ourselves so that they become more powerful than the enemy forces. And those forces can only be built up in the course of struggle. And, therefore, every day, continuously, the ANC and the rest of the democratic movements of our country have got to be involved in a process in which they draw more people into the struggle. As I was saying about both the military and political struggle, it means that more units of Umkhonto we Sizwe have got to be activated within the country. It means the military struggle has got to be more continuous than it has been up to now. It means our people who are involved in the political struggle have got themselves to be engaged in more continuous battle against the enemy. So, yes, indeed the process of intensifying our offensive against that enemy. [sentence as heard] It means more political activity. It means we must take the battle to the enemy. And that is the perspective, that has to be the perspective.

[Correspondent] On this question our commander Comrade (Joe Mudize) has this to say:

[(Mudize)] I said earlier to you that we are going to continue with these (?installations). What we are going to do in future is to add the frequency of the assault on these installations and economic targets, and to add to that, we are also going to increase the assault on enemy personnel. Over the coming few years starting from '83 [as heard] the number of encounters against enemy personnel are going to increase. We are going to make it a point that South Africa becomes unsafe for those who are bent on oppressing our people.

If the South African Government persists with its oppressive laws, naturally the scale of clashes between the oppresser and the oppressed is bound to rise. And naturally in such a situation there is going to be casualties on both sides. In fact the casualties are there already. There are deaths already on both sides. But if the Botha regime persists with these oppressive policies of theirs that level is bound to rise.

[Correspondent] Umkhonto we Sizwe is known all over the world for its selectivity in attacks. Comrade (Joe Mudize) gave this explanation on this aspect:

[(Mudize)] The ANC is a people's movement. It is not a terrorist organization. It is bound to be selective on its targets [words indistinct]. It is going to deal with those who have taken up arms against the people. Those who are suppressing the aspirations of the people with arms in hand are going to be the targets of the ANC. The ANC is not going to go out and kill women and children. This is not our aim. Our aim is to deal with those who are enforcing the law of that country. Those who are making apartheid what it is today.

ZIMBABWE

PTA Discusses Trade, Tariffs; Summit To Open

MB190800 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The second summit of the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] opens in Harare today. The heads of state and government started arriving in the capital yesterday. The first to arrive was the prime minister of Djibouti, Mr Barkat Gourad, who was followed by Presidents Milton Obote of Uganda and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

The heads of state and government will discuss and make final decisions on the reports and recommendations drafted by the Council of Ministers over the weekend. The PTA meetings started with a session of the intergovernmental committee of experts last Monday. Among major issues discussed by the Council of Ministers were trade and commerce, as well as the proposed establishment of the trade and development bank. A list of import and export commodities was agreed upon with the aim of reducing tariff and nontariff barriers so that in the end tariffs may be done away with. The PTA is a regional economic grouping comprising 14 countries from eastern and southern Africa. Zimbabwe has been elected chairman of the current summit.